The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

December–January, 1982–83

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: FISCAL FITNESS

National Swine Proficiency Winner David Anderson

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The National Future Farmer
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December-January, 1982-83
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A Word With The Editor

Something is happening in rural America. And it's not all good. Some farmers are going out of business—but they're not going under because of poor management, poor record keeping, or even because they are poor farmers. They are going out of business because they are too good at what they do. They produce too much, and prices go down. And because costs, inflation and interest rates go up even though prices go down, farmers can't keep up.

That's why your vo-ag classroom and FFA experience is more important than ever. The training you receive can make the difference when you too may face a fight for survival on the farm. And farm management training should be a big part of your FFA and vo-ag experience.

This issue focuses on farm management skills: what they are, why they are important, and how some FFA members are getting those skills. The story "Fiscal Fitness" will give you an in-depth look at several key steps you will need to know before you go to your local ag lender's office and apply for a loan. Our story "What Every FFA Dad Should Know . . . " is something you'll want to show to your parents after you have finished reading it because the article outlines some key points on setting up a partnership.

There is also something special in this issue—coverage of the National FFA Convention—the largest farm youth meeting in the world. This special report on national convention activities is provided through extra effort by the magazine staff. Most of this issue is at the printer when the staff leaves for Kansas City and the convention story cannot be written until the curtain falls on the last session. Then the rush is on to get the copy written, pictures developed, layouts completed, type set and the many other details required to produce this section of the magazine, and get it to the printer. It is a challenge the staff enjoys meeting and we hope this special effort contributes to your enjoyment of the magazine.

Wilson Carnes

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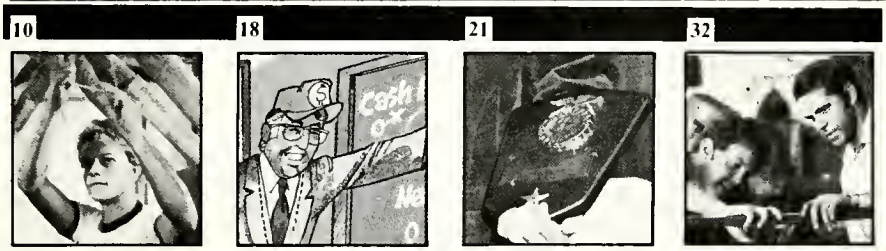

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Cover Photo by Michael Wilson

Tom Lynch, 1982 Missouri Star Agribusinessman, demonstrates one of the products he helps produce at Tri-L Manufacturing, a family-owned, family-operated business specializing in large bale handling equipment. His story begins on page 32.

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The FFA News in Brief

TAKE ONE: FFA ON THE AIR . . . plans have been introduced for FFA to play a key role in the upcoming 1983 National Agriculture Day television special, titled "Who Will Farm the Land?" to be aired on Ag Day, March 21, 1983, throughout the corn belt of the United States. The program is sponsored by Elanco Products Company, and will be produced by a Chicago-based agricultural public relations firm Sarkett and Associates. Look for more details on the special in upcoming issues of *The National FUTURE FARMER.*

IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES and setting goals for FFA's future was the main topic of discussion at the three-day national FFA staff retreat, held in Chincoteague, Virginia, in September. National FFA staff members discussed nine key areas needing emphasis over the next decade of vocational agriculture, including strengthening the current SOE system; encouraging undergraduate students in agricultural education; expanding the number of WEA participants; increasing FFA membership; supporting new vo-ag instructors; increasing the number of local alumni affiliates, and launching a national five-year program to upgrade instruction in farm business management.

JULIAN CAMPBELL, national treasurer of the national FFA and the National FFA Foundation, ends

Julian Campbell

22 years of service in that position when he retires December 31, 1982. Mr. Campbell will also be retiring from 24 years as the Virginia State FFA Advisor. His 36 years of service in vocational agriculture have seen him earn numerous honors, including Honorary State and American Farmer degrees. He was recognized at this year's National FFA Convention, and the National FFA Foundation has established the Julian Campbell Honors Program as a tribute to his accomplishments. To honor Mr. Campbell through this program, send your contribution to the National FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

THE FFA HAS RENEWED its member exchange program with the Future Farmers organization in Panama (FADEP) for two more years, according to Lennie Gamge, national FFA specialist for International programs. The $90,000 project will provide for the exchange of 10 FFA members and 29 FADEP members throughout the next two years, with the first FFA group scheduled to leave for Panama in January, 1983. AID (Agency for International Development) is sponsoring the program. FFA members will work at vocational agriculture schools in the country's Chiriqui province for a six-month period. The FFA is currently screening applicants for the program and minimum requirements include a completed high school education and one or two years of post-secondary education, plus prior knowledge of the Spanish language. Inquire at the National FFA Center's International Department.

NOW IS THE TIME to start planning for 1983's National FFA WEEK, if not sooner. Idea booklets, promotional brochures and order forms were mailed to FFA chapters prior to the National FFA Convention, and can provide chapters with ideas on how members can get involved. A new development this year will be the public service announcement radio spots, recorded by convention speakers and celebrities on behalf of the FFA.

IF YOU PLAN TO COMPETE for one of the FFA's proficiency awards, don't wait—have your chapter advisor order the application from the new 1982-83 FFA program catalog now. The catalog was introduced so that FFA chapters receive only the applications they need, therefore reducing unneeded applications forms sent unnecessarily. And if you order now, you avoid the worry and hassle of ordering during the first three months of the new year, when the national FFA office expects a flood of orders for banquet season.

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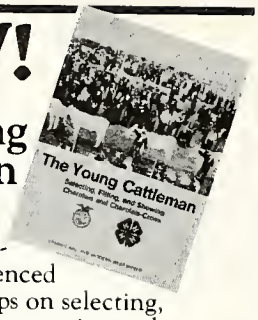

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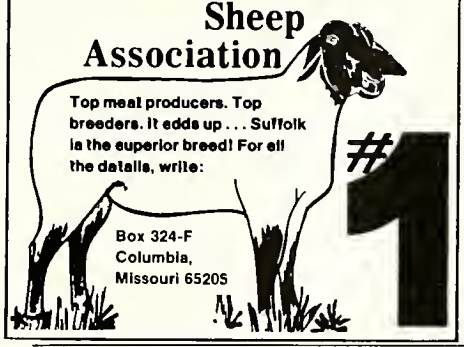

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The Mailbag

Whitney, Texas

My chief photographer is a Whitney Chapter FFA Officer. He showed me the picture in your current issue on Page 38: "Are You An FFA Nerd?" We love it, and ask permission to reprint the page in our yearbook alongside the Whitney Chapter's picture (always sharp in FFA jackets, thank you). We would add the headline: "No FFA Nerds Live Here; Only Members With The Proud Image." Enclosed is a copy of our current yearbook to prove our point. As you can see, FFA occupies a prominent section of the book.

Mrs. Kathi Higgins

This page is available as a poster from the National FFA Supply Service.—Ed.

Caldwell, Ohio

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoy reading *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. I especially enjoyed reading the June-July, 1982, issue about the national officers visiting Japan. Other articles I enjoyed were the father-son team, "News in Brief" and "FFA in Action."

FFA means a lot to me. I can become active in more ways than one, such as being an FFA officer. In school you can learn more things about FFA than ever before.

Kim Knight

Pamplin, Virginia

Thank you for your generous comments on my service to the FFA in the April-May issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. While I do not feel I deserve them, I am only human and take much satisfaction in the article.

I was really down about having to miss my first state FFA convention in 51 years. From all accounts, Melanie's address was a masterpiece.

W.C. Dudley

Putney, Vermont

Would you please let me know the subscription price of your FFA magazine, as I would like to order it? I have a farm operation and I found your magazine very interesting. My brother received it when he was in FFA in high school. He has since graduated and he doesn't receive it anymore, but I am interested in subscribing.

Robert S. Johnson

Subscription price for non-members is $2 per year.—Ed.

Dryden, Virginia

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your caring enough to print *The National FUTURE FARMER*. As president of my FFA chapter, I am pleased to read and realize the care taken in printing the outstanding articles printed in the magazine. Be it material on accomplishments by FFA members or on agricultural break-throughs, all articles have qualities to interest and inspire members of the many chapters in and around the nation.

Personally, I like to feel that material offered in the publication encourages aspiring members on their family or personal endeavors. Even the "Joke Page" gives members a feeling of kinship, along with clean, enjoyable humor.

Gene Wade

Hackettstown, New Jersey

In the 1950's I was a member of the Madison High School, New Jersey, Chapter, holding the office of president for four years. I have fond memories of the FFA and how it helped me with a beef project. Keep up the fine work of a great organization.

Claude Babbitt

St. Joseph, Missouri

In recently reading your issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*, December/January 1981-82, I was most interested in the article on pages 34-35 entitled "Learning While Serving Farmers." Kendall Thompson is a member of FarmHouse Fraternity and I would like to reprint this in our quarterly tabloid, *Pearls and Rubies*, which goes to our 13,000 members around the world. I would give, of course, credit for re-printing to *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

Robert L. Off
FarmHouse Fraternity

Caribou, Maine

I was glad to see in your editorial reply to Alan Penn from Medina, Ohio, that you did stand up for what you believe. I saw this project of Hebron Smith's as a non-typical type. (See October-November issue, page 8.)

I hope in the future that you feel free to carry articles or pictures of this type. I feel that there is a case for Mr. Smith's project because my students and I constructed a modified pulling tractor which we campaign around the Aroostook County area. Your magazine featured our tractor in FFA in Action about two years ago.

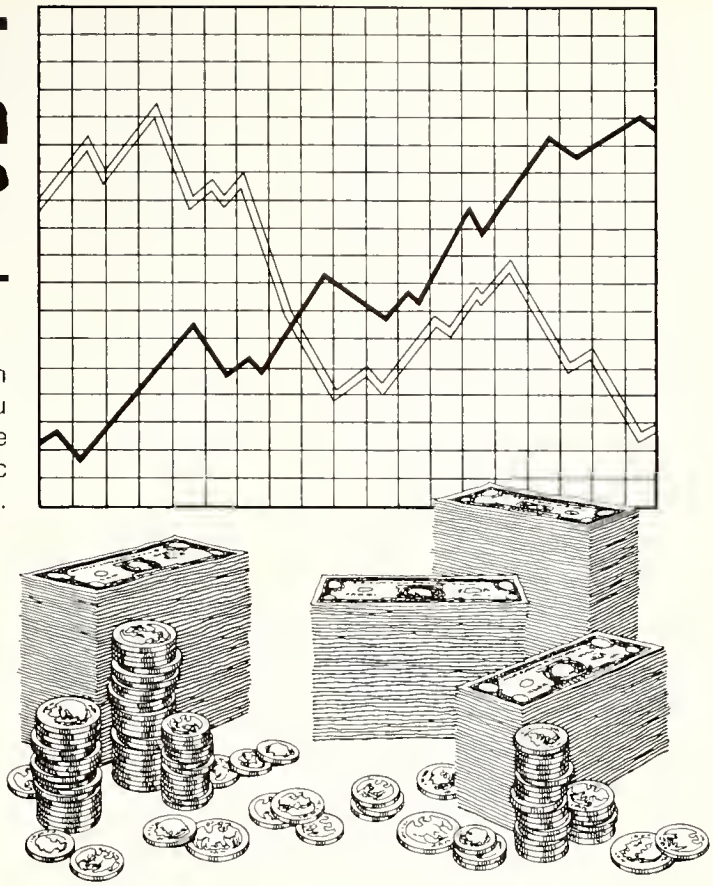
My students, when constructing, maintaining, and pulling the modified, learned the importance of preventative maintenance, weight transfer, oils, fuels, tune-up, and several subtle skills. We made many friends who in several cases are potential employers as well as friends.

Our local paper has featured the students and the tractor in the front page, bringing much good publicity to our chapter. Our tractor pulls in only sanctioned tractor pulls where very strict safety rules are adhered to rigidly. I am sure Mr. Smith's Super Gas Buick is used only in supervised racing events and not on the streets.

Thomas M. Hale, Instructor
Caribou High School and Vocational Center

What Is Your SOE Program REALLY Worth?

As FFA members with SOE programs, you may be doing more to solve the country's economic woes than you think.



THERE'S been a lot of talk in recent months about economic recession, and what we can do as individuals to make the economy better, especially in the farm economy. To most vo-ag students, the recession may not mean much—until you add up some important figures regarding FFA members' investments in SOE (Supervised Occupational Experience) programs. You as FFA members may be doing more for the economy than you think.

What do SOE programs have to do with strengthening the economy? That's just what John Scott wanted to know. Mr. Scott is a vo-ag instructor at Sumner, Iowa, and recently finished serving a term as president of the Iowa Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association.

To help answer his question, Mr. Scott put together a statistical profile of the 1982 Iowa State Farmer degree recipients. His results show that SOE programs make significant economic contributions.

"What I was trying to do was verify what I had always felt—with strong SOE programs, the money invested in vo-ag will come back to the community at least six or seven times more," he says. "That's without attempting to put a dollar figure on the leadership or other benefits students get from FFA."

Here are some highlights from Mr. Scott's profile of 1982 Iowa State Farmers:

—The total investment in agriculture for all 421 students amounted to almost $8 million, an average of $18,617 each;

—The total *earned* net worth amounted to almost $4 million, an average of $9,127 each;

—Total earnings from SOE programs amounted to almost $6 million, an average of $14,135 for each FFA member;

—171 of the FFA members reported ag business income of nearly $3 million, or an average of $17,365. (It should be noted that, although income from ag business was higher, these applicants had few, in some cases no, investments in agriculture.)

In general, an average Iowa State Farmer candidate in 1982 had:

—livestock valued at over $7,000;

—machinery and equipment at $3,509;

—growing crops at $2,251;

—harvested crops at $5,801;

—a net worth of $10,217;

—an earned net worth of $9,127, and

—a total earnings of $14,135 during the time he or she had been enrolled in vocational agriculture and FFA.

"Not bad for a group of youngsters," points out Mr. Scott. "I would have to say one of the primary goals of vocational agriculture, to make a beginning and advance in agriculture and agricultural business, has definitely been accomplished.

"We're only talking about 2 1/2 percent of the total vo-ag enrollment (in Iowa)," he continues. "Visualize what an impact the total program is having on communities, state and nation."

However, the Iowa vo-ag instructor also points out that SOE programs show only the economic benefits of FFA.

"Say a vo-ag department costs $45,000 to operate," he says. "But students may bring back at least $75,000 into the community. Everything you get above that is just bonus: leadership training, improvement enterprises, gaining agricultural skills—you can't put a dollar figure on that.

"Let's say the local ag loan officer, who is a vo-ag graduate, is responsible for making loans, overseeing farms and agribusinesses, and making farm management decisions—how much of his skills came from being in FFA public speaking, for example? That's the bonus—that's what vocational agriculture and FFA are all about." ●●●

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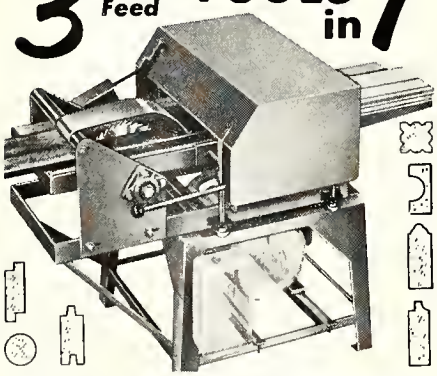

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Trends in Agriculture

Looking Ahead

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY: ten years ago, women were considered second class citizens when it came to agriculture. Now, education experts at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale say women are pursuing agriculture degrees in fields once considered the sole dominion of men. "In 1970 SIUC had only 17 women students in the whole school of agriculture," says William Doerr, associate dean for instruction in agriculture. "Women now make up more than one-fourth of the students in the ag school." Doerr says recent women graduates are pursuing careers as agribusiness managers, high school agriculture teachers, farm managers and bank officers as examples.

JOB OUTLOOK FOR students studying agriculture and related fields looks good for the rest of this century and into the next, says Dr. Ed Glazener, director of academic affairs at North Carolina State's school of agriculture. Dr. Glazener was a member of a national panel that studied supply and demand for agriculture graduates. The report, found in *Progressive Farmer*, says almost 60,000 graduates will be needed from 1980 through 1985, but slightly less than 52,000 graduates will be available. Of the eight agricultural occupations listed, the report cites only two fields where supply will outstrip demand: educators and media specialists.

A SLIDE AND FILMSTRIP presentation showing a young family trying to get established in farming is now available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to USDA, *People on the Farm: Getting Started* is the sixth in a series about farming and farm people. It takes a detailed look at two young black farmers, Wilbur and Ramona Minisee, as they try to build up their farming operation in Niles, Michigan. USDA prepares the "People on the Farm" presentations to aid urban students and others who are unfamiliar with farming operations, and each presentation takes a detailed look at modern farming operations in the United States. The slide sets and filmstrips can be ordered, for a fee, by writing to: Photography Center, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

TRACTORS and other major farm machines could become scarce by the second half of 1983. "The problem in the farm equipment industry over the last two or three years has been similar to that of agriculture itself: overproduction in the face of weak demand," says Morris W. Dorosh, farm equipment guidebook publisher. "Farm equipment and tractor inventories are being reduced quite rapidly, which means that fewer units are being produced than are being sold." Dorosh says inventories will likely shrink to the point where not all models or types will be available for immediate delivery from a dealer lot.

A USDA SURVEY notes that the longtime decline in numbers of farm residents is continuing. In 1920, 30 percent of Americans resided on farms, compared to today's figure of 2.6 percent. Other findings include: the median age of the farm population is 36 years, compared to 30 years for nonfarm residents; 95 percent of farm residents are white, compared to 86 percent of the nonfarm population; and unemployment of farm residents ran only 3 percent last year, compared to the nonfarm average of 8 percent, although that figure could be misleading because when farmers lose needed off-farm work, they're still not counted as unemployed.

RECENT USDA FIGURES on 1981 farm income have turned up some interesting statistics related to farm size and volume. From a total of $19.6 billion:
*Farms with sales of $500,000 and over accounted for $12.98 billion of the total net farm income;
*Farms with sales of $200,000 to $499,999 accounted for $3.98 billion;
*Farms with sales of $100,000 to $199,999 accounted for $2.95 billion;
*Farms with sales of $40,000 to $99,999 accounted for $1.51 billion of the total. That adds up to *$21.4 billion*, almost $2 billion *over* the $19.6 billion total figure for 1981 net farm income. The reasoning?
*Farms with sales of $20,000 to $39,999 *lost* $244 million last year;
*Farms with sales of $10,000 to $19,999 lost $292 million;
*Farms with sales of $5,000 to $9,999 lost $331 million;
*Farms with sales of $2,500 to $4,999 lost $462 million, and farms with sales under $2,500 lost a total of $501 million last year.

What Every FFA Dad Should Know . . .

. . . About raising his son or daughter into a partnership on the farm. Here's a story for both FFA members and their dads.

As most FFA fathers know, there are plenty of stories around telling you how *not* to bring your son or daughter into a management role on the farm.

On one hand are those that wait too long, like the father who keeps his son doing chores for 20 years. Suddenly the father drops dead and leaves the place to the son, who has never even seen the milk check, let alone kept the books or arranged for a loan.

On the other hand are those that don't wait long enough—such as the parents who are so pleased their 18-year-old wants to farm they set up a partnership then and there, and double the size of the operation. Two years later, a restless 20-year-old decides he'd rather work for a feed company in Florida. The parents buy him out and end up with twice the farm they can handle.

Somewhere in between are solutions that work. As farm management specialists point out, there's a different answer for every family. And the best way to find it is step-by-step over a period of years.

"The first thing you must do is look at the personal angle," says Bob Luening, University of Wisconsin-Extension agricultural economist. "Can the father and son get along working together full-time? Family emotions and business mix like oil and water.

"Second is the business. Is the farm solvent and profitable? Is there enough cash flow? In other words, is the pie big enough to be divided two ways? If not, can it be made big enough?

"If not, you'd better tell your children right off that it's just not a full-time two-family farm," Mr. Luening urges.

If you're convinced that the farm and the family are able to make the change, you're ready for the next step: a trial period, usually lasting at least several years.

Vic Wagner, UW-Extension farm management agent, makes this suggestion: "Before you go into a sophisticated father/son arrangement, you need some kind of testing program. Farming full time is a lot different than working before and after high school. Give everybody a chance to see how it works before you give your son a piece of the action.

"On dairy farms, I often recommend paying the son a percentage of the milk check at this stage, rather than a wage. It would be anywhere from 7 to 20 percent depending on the size of the check and the needs of the parents. But as a rule I think you need to provide at least $1,000 to $1,200 a month, especially if the son is married," he says.

The next step, two or three years down the road, is to work out some kind of formal agreement and let your younger partner acquire some of the personal property.

"Before you make a decision on what kind of arrangement, I like to see the family take about six months to mull it over, look at the potential and talk to all the parties," Mr. Wagner says.

Points to Remember

As you plan how you're going to bring a family member into a key role in your operation, the extension specialists urge you to consider these other points as well:

—None of this is simple. Get some good legal and accounting help early in the game.

—Work hard at getting sons and daughters actively involved in decision-making and financial planning. Let them handle the bookkeeping. Most important, give them a chance to make mistakes.

—Keep business and personal lives separate. At a minimum, keep separate business and personal checking accounts. Have separate housing, too—preferably with the two generations living out of sight of each other.

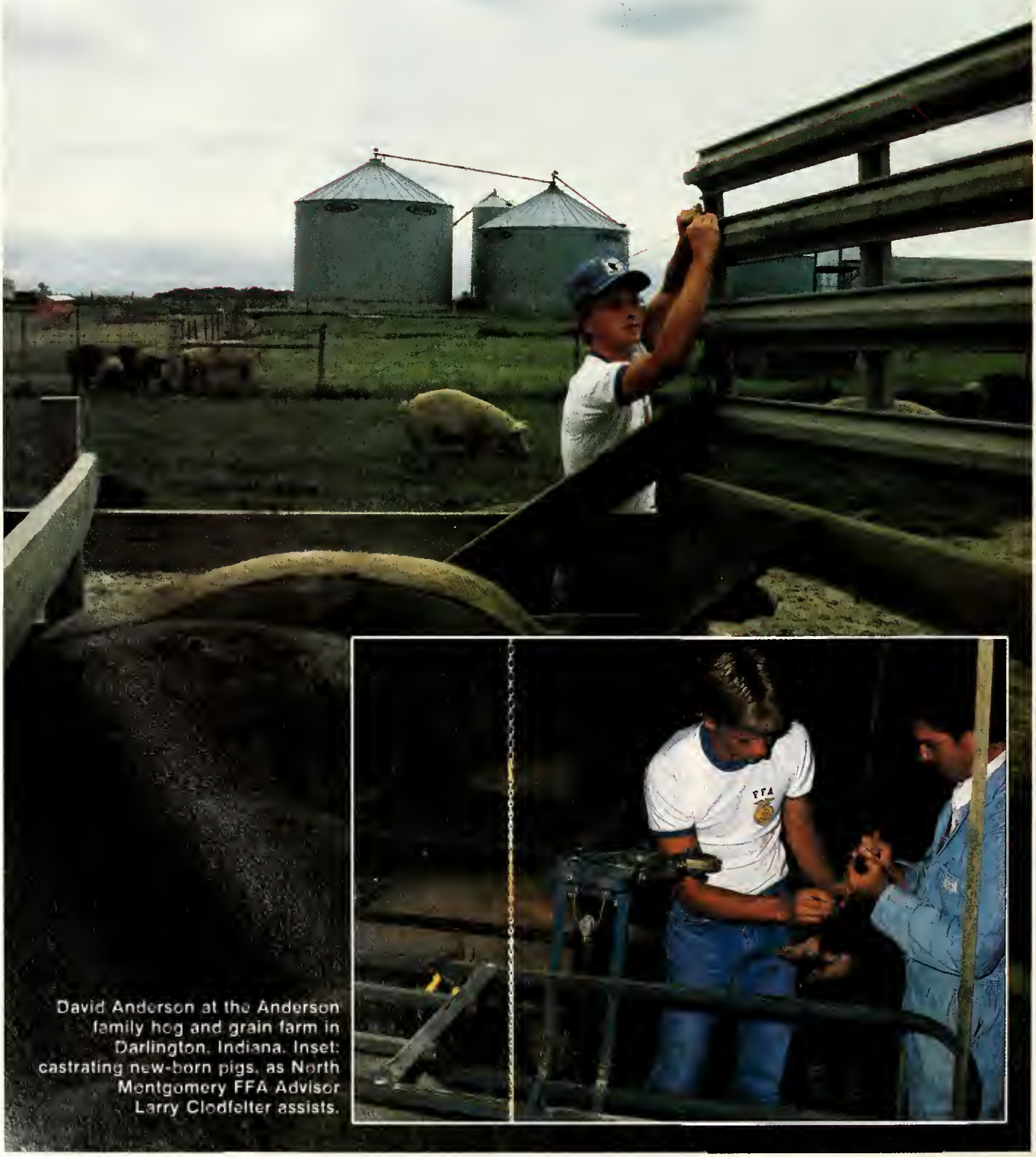
—Pay young family members a competitive wage.

—Remember that you're responsible for your own financial well-being for the rest of your life. Give your children the opportunity, but don't give away the farm. •••

The Driving Force Behind David Anderson

Many elements go into making a winner, but for this FFA achiever the secret behind success is simple.

By Michael Wilson



David Anderson at the Anderson family hog and grain farm in Darlington, Indiana. Inset: castrating new-born pigs, as North Montgomery FFA Advisor Larry Clodfelter assists.

IN the mystical, magical world of FFA achievers, success is spelled with two simple four-letter words: hard work.

It's no secret what driving force lies behind turning an average FFA'er into a success story: -- desire, dedication, a thirst for challenges . . . But it's those two four letter words that make all the efforts pay off.

Hard work is a good description of the driving force behind David Anderson, 1981 National Swine Proficiency winner from Darlington, Indiana. David's long list of achievements, both in the show ring and FFA, is proof positive of the success characteristics listed above. Within a week after winning FFA's Swine Proficiency award, David earned honors as owner of the Reserve Grand Champion market hog "on-foot" at the North American Livestock Show. One year earlier one of David's hogs won Grand Champion Production Tested Barrow and Grand Champion Individual Carcass at the National Barrow Show, chosen from 871 hogs from 28 states. In between show trophies, David squeezed in a full year as state FFA officer—but only after winning the state's hog proficiency award, state leadership contest and state livestock judging contest. All the same year, mind you.

"I've been lucky to have a lot of experience in FFA besides pigs and livestock judging," he says modestly, but simply put, hard work has paid off for David. He now works in partnership with his father Robert on the Anderson family swine and grain operation, marketing 1,400 hogs last year in a farrow-to-finish system. His decision to enter the swine business was one of the easiest moves he's ever made.

Below, David adjusts automatic feeding system. *Photos by Author*

"If I had to make a choice between a state livestock judging contest or running for state office, I'd go to the judging contest, mainly because that's what I've always wanted to do—go into livestock," says the sandy-haired 20-year-old. "A lot of people raise livestock to develop their judging abilities. I try to use my judging to develop my ability to raise livestock."

David's ability to raise livestock is one of the last things that needs improvement, as witnessed by his numerous show winnings. "I'm striving to produce a quickly-gaining, feed-efficient and reproductively outstanding type of animal," he says.

The father-son duo manage a commercial herd of 150 sows, farrowing 300 litters per year. Mr. Anderson put David in charge of the farrowing house when he was in eighth grade, adding responsibility as David grew older. Their current partnership allows even more control.

"I could have a percent ownership of the whole herd, but instead I have *whole* ownership of my *portion* of the herd," he explains. "That give me more control to use genetics however I want to. I wanted to have my herd separate, but there's no economical way to have my own facilities—this way, dad and I can combine labor.

"We always try to work things out around here to maximize labor," he adds. "We're in the hog business to make money."

Genetic superiority is David's main goal in the Anderson's SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) swine herd. Pathogen-free pigs are obtained from their dam through surgical removal, eliminating any chance of disease from delivery through the birth canal. The Anderson's have had SPF hogs for 20 years, and although the program costs more, David says the advantages outweigh the drawbacks.

"We've saved tens of thousands of dollars through the SPF program," he says. "We bring in clean hogs and we stay with clean hogs. We don't vaccinate for *anything*."

Because hogs are never vaccinated they develop no resistance to disease, which David admits could become a problem. "But except for mange, we've gone without disease here since 1962. It's all in the management and the people you buy your boars from," he says. "I think we're five years ahead of the swine industry in the kind of herd health we're trying to maintain in our commercial herd."

As a commercial breeder placing emphasis on genetic control, the North Montgomery FFA'er says it's important to take advantage of characteristics in certain breeds. "In general, light-colored breeds are better mothers while dark-colored breeds stress growth power," he explains. "You use the best of both worlds: a Yorkshire or Chester sow line and then use a Duroc or Hampshire boar. Hopefully, you capitalize by getting big litters that grow fast."

Through hand-mating and meticulous use of sow history records, David has been able to tighten the Anderson's farrowing schedule so sows farrow every five weeks, cutting costs per sow. "Handmating also gives you the chance to keep track of which boars are serving sows and which aren't," he explains. "If you turn four boars out into a pen of sows, there might be one that's never bred a sow in his life."

Competing with other swine breeders, some twice his age, has helped David gain both a good reputation and influence among peers in the swine industry. He's developed his hog-showing ability partially from listening to advice from contest-veterans he's competed against at national shows. And after participating, David has found his ideas aren't always the same as other breeders. "There's been a point of view in the past where farmers think hogs and show hogs are different—that the same kind of pig you'd want to grow in a finishing barn isn't the kind that wins in show rings," he says. "But I've been showing my pigs right off the feeder, just as if they were going to slaughter."

David just began four years of animal science training at Purdue University and was promptly elected Freshman class president. He is planning to enter the purebred business and take over the swine operation, leaving his dad to handle the farm's grain business. Setting goals has been a big part of his life, and the hard work he's put into those goals have earned him many achievements.

"I think setting goals encourages you to do other things, like develop all your abilities," he says thoughtfully. "You should get involved in all sorts of things, because now's your chance to find out what you want to do in life. There's nothing else you can do that gives you as wide a variety of opportunities as FFA does." As an added note, David says he's urged other FFA members to get as much experience as possible.

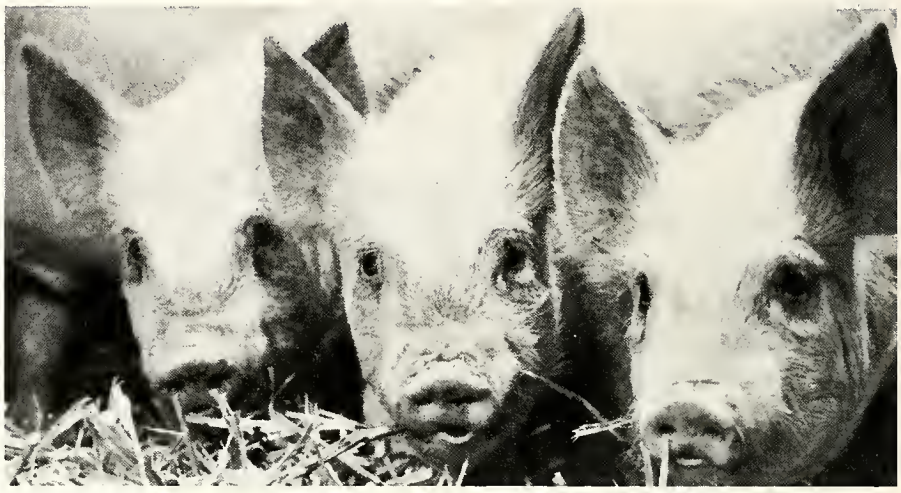
"Until you get out there in real world, you don't really know," he adds. "You don't gauge yourself by going against the second best—you gauge yourself by going against the best."

That's good advice for any would-be-winner, straight from the mouth of one who's already been in the winner's circle. •••

A Tribute to the Pig

Here's a lighthearted look at one of the farmer's most colorful barnyard friends

By Michael H. Kluever



No animal, with the possible exception of the snake, has been more sorely mistreated and misunderstood as the pig. It has been refuted by religions, rebuked by philosophers, blackballed by physicians, libeled and slandered in old wives' tales, ignored by artists and shabbily represented by writers. The pig's good name has been muddied in association with unsantitary conditions ("this room looks like a pigsty"), gluttonously misrepresented ("she eats like a pig"), and subjected to closeminded generalities ("he's pigheaded"). Yet the pig ranks as one of man's best and most dependable friends.

The pig's bad press image began early. Ancients mistakenly believed it was the source of many diseases, even that pig's milk caused leprosy. Medievalists were convinced the pig was in league with the devil. As proof, whenever something went wrong, there was always a pig around (to blame, and, consequently, to eat). A traditional Scottish belief associates the mere utterance of the word "pig" with bringing on disasters.

The wild boar is maliciously characterized as a gory, coldblooded killer, stylized in medieval coat-of-arms as a fierce-tusked beast with beady evil eyes. In truth, he is a gregarious, good family man whose prime concern is finding ample food for his harem—his worst fault, an occasional wallow in a mudhole, rids him of nasty parasites. Actually, he prefers to bathe in clear water, as do all members of the pig family.

The pig's vital role in the colonization of North America and the defense of the United States has been completely ignored by historians. Columbus, Cortez, De Soto and other early explorers were accompanied by pigs, whose stamina and adaptability provided a constant source of fresh meat. The pig took so well to the New World that early colonists had to set loose part of their rapidly reproducing population. During the bitter winter of 1776-77, salt pork smuggled past British soldiers at night fed Washington's troops at Valley Forge. As a reward to this instrumental contribution to our independence, our forefathers selected pork as the staple battlefield ration of American military forces. This dubious distinction still exists today.

Historically pigs have paid off more farm mortgages than any other class of livestock. In return, its payment has been bacon for breakfast and ham foi Sunday dinner (for the farmer that is).

And if all this was not enough to elevate the pig to a high pedestal, it is also very intelligent. Researchers have determined the pig to be the best problem-solver among hooved animals. Any hog farmer knows that if there is anywhere a pig should not be, no matter how impentrable the barriers, it will find a way to get there.

Pigs have been a constant source of joy and happiness throughout the centuries as they have entertained millions with their clever antics. France's King Louis XI was especially delighted by a troupe of pigs bedecked with pants and ribbons, dancing to tunes played on a bagpipe. The "Learned Pig" of London in 1789 made a small fortune for its owner by picking up letters written on pieces of cardboard and arranging them into words. Pigs were especially popular in early circuses, working well in comedy skits with clowns, due to their fine sense of timing.

Their timing and rhythm have long been exploited by exotic dancers. Josephine Baker had a penfull of pigs running about the stage in a carefully choreographed accompaniment to Miss Baker's prancing as she wowed her audiences in America and Europe. Fred's Pigs, a leading vaudeville act for years, featured his performers climbing ladders, balancing balls on their snouts and frolicking on a seesaw. After touring every major American fair, they traveled to Europe appearing at a special command performance for Kaiser Wilhelm.

Among the most talented pigs of recent times has been Arnold Ziffel. Born in Indiana, Arnold co-starred in the TV series "Green Acres." TV audiences were amazed at the young performer's ability to play a piano, open doors, fetch letters from a mailbox, open a refrigerator and take food out, and carrying various items including schoolbooks, roller skates and newspapers. Among Arnold's other accomplishments were pulling a toy wagon, holding a pencil in his mouth and sucking soft drinks through a straw. His fondness of TV westerns taught him how to switch on a TV set. Arnold was paid $250 a day and won the prestigious Patsy (Performing Animal Television Star of the Year) award in both 1968 and 1969. In the end Arnold ended up on his trainer's dinner plate, replaced by a younger and even more talented pig. That's show-bizz.

Economic Importance

Few challenge the great economic importance of pigs. Roasts, pork chops, hams, spareribs and hocks are all delicous and economical mainstays of our diet. Hog stomach (tripe) is considered a delicacy. Its hide makes the finest leather for luggage, gloves, harnesses, saddlery and shoe uppers. And everyone knows the importance of "pigskin." In some areas of the world pigs are raised not for meat but as fertilizer factories. A 100-pound pig can produce a ton of highly rich nitrogen manure yearly (and that ain't hay).

It is obvious that the pig has played a vital role in man's survival; and there's no question it has been treated rudely by its principal benefactor. The time has come to give the pig its just due. A week should be set aside each year to honor the pig. Statues should be erected on every village green in tribute. All derogatory terms taking the name of the pig in vain should be stricken fron our language. And finally, why not let a few pigs romp on the White House lawn to reinforce the new respect we have for our beloved companion? •••

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Duane Adams: "Making Things

This State FFA President recently became the youngest member of West Virginia's House of Delegates, but handling both jobs is a welcome challenge.

"I know it's an old cliche, but I think the important thing to realize is that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow; young people are going to have to start playing an important role, we can't just stand there and want to be handed a quick answer. We have to start working and making things happen, not just hope they happen—we have to make them happen."

Those are the words of Duane Adams, state FFA president from West Virginia, talking about one of his favorite topics: young people.

Duane has some authority for talking about young people, because he's one himself. But the 20-year-old FFA member from Lost Creek, West Virginia, certainly can't be considered typical by any standards. You see, Duane also serves as a representative in the West Virginia House of Delegates. He is the youngest delegate in the history of the West Virginia House of Delegates—possibly the youngest in the country.

Duane was appointed to a delegate position by Governor Jay Rockefeller earlier this year after he had won in a primary election in June. His delegate responsibilities coupled with FFA State Officer duties make Duane one very busy 20-year-old—but one has only to meet the young man and witness his energy, zeal and enthusiasm to understand how capable he is of handling both duties. It's all in the face—a lightning-quick smile, an effusive laugh, and beneath it all, a candid honesty. At press time, Duane was campaigning for the November 2, 1982, election to fill a two-year term. We spoke with him in an exclusive FFA interview:

Q.: Duane, how did your appointment come about?
A: Well, I ran in the primary and won; I came in second, and my district has four delegates. The man who won was appointed to a public service commission, and then by law the governor had to appoint a Republican to fulfill that term. There were three names submitted, and he appointed me.

Q: How did you get started in politics?
A: I've been active in politics since I was 14 years old, putting up campaign posters, passing out cards. It's interesting to note that the same governor who appointed me to this position was our political opponent in 1976 when I worked for former Governor Arch Moore.... But it seems like I've always been involved; I read everything I can get my hands on, talk to a lot of people.

Q: You mentioned the primary election. What exactly did you do to win that election?
A: As far as money goes, I spent $98 to win the Republican primary (laughs); $33 for the filing fee and one newspaper advertisement. But I spent hundreds—literally hundreds of hours knocking on doors, introducing myself to people, that sort of thing. After the primary election of course, I had cards, pamphlets, papers printed up. Now I've spent several thousand dollars and have that much more to spend in campaign material.

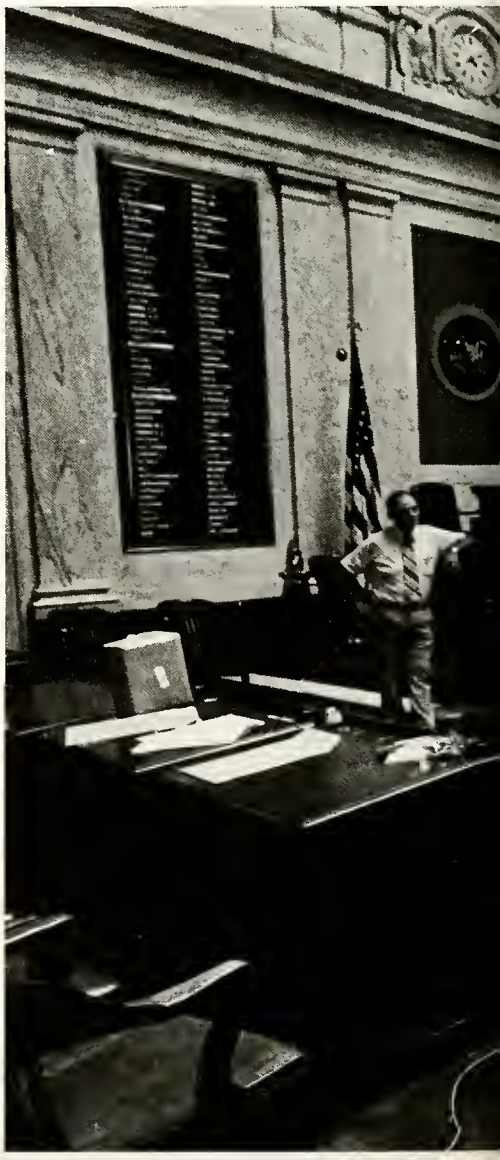
Q: Where does the funding come from?
A: Some of it is personal, a lot of it is contributions and donations, some fund-raising activities.

Q: Duane, you're the youngest delegate in the 119-year history of the West Virginia House of Delegates. How do you feel about that?
A: I think it's great. One thing that really disburbs me is that, of those young people who have the right to vote between the age of 18 and 25, only about 20 percent of those turn out to vote. Apathy in youth is really terrible. I think more people need to become involved, especially people with specific interests like farmers; we need to take a stand. I think we're neglecting the biggest asset, the biggest natural resource this country has, and that is our young people. Youth needs to wake up and become aware of what's happening, take a stand for positive things. We saw, in the '60s, negative stands for things; but if we use our attitudes to turn that energy toward positive things, I think it would make a big difference.

"It's unbelievable the places you go in West Virginia, and I'm sure it's all over, the respect folks have for the FFA organization. They know what type of individuals FFA develops."

Q: What did you think when you first heard about the appointment?
A: Well, I knew I was going to be at FFA leadership camp when the Governor was going to call. But we were so

Below, Duane Adams at his chamber desk: member of the house of delegates . . . I don't



Happen"

busy with camp and registration, opening session, getting people squared away, I just forgot about it. Finally this note comes to me about five o'clock: 'Mr. Adams, call your home.' Well, we went nuts—we jumped in the car and ran down to the administration office, couldn't get through, finally put through an emergency call. My dad got on the phone and started talking about *nothing*—right then I knew—if I hadn't gotten it, he would have said 'I'm sorry' . . . .

He finally said: 'By the way, the governor called here,' I said, 'Well, what did he want? He want to tell you you got that appointment.' It took a minute for it to sink in, but I finally just hollered into the phone 'Man, that's great!' I mean, I just shouted it. Everyone was shaking my hand, just like an election night. And it *was* a great feeling, because I'm working for the interests of the people; I'm concerned; that's why I threw my hat into the ring when I did, because I didn't feel that the representation we were getting in our district was what we deserved, so I decided to become involved.

Q: How does FFA fit into all this? Are they completely different worlds?
A: Completely. When I'm in the blue jacket, I'm state FFA president. When I'm in a suit and tie I'm a member of the house of delegates . . . I don't think they interfere with each other, because I do keep them separate. I don't see any problem with meeting my responsibilities.

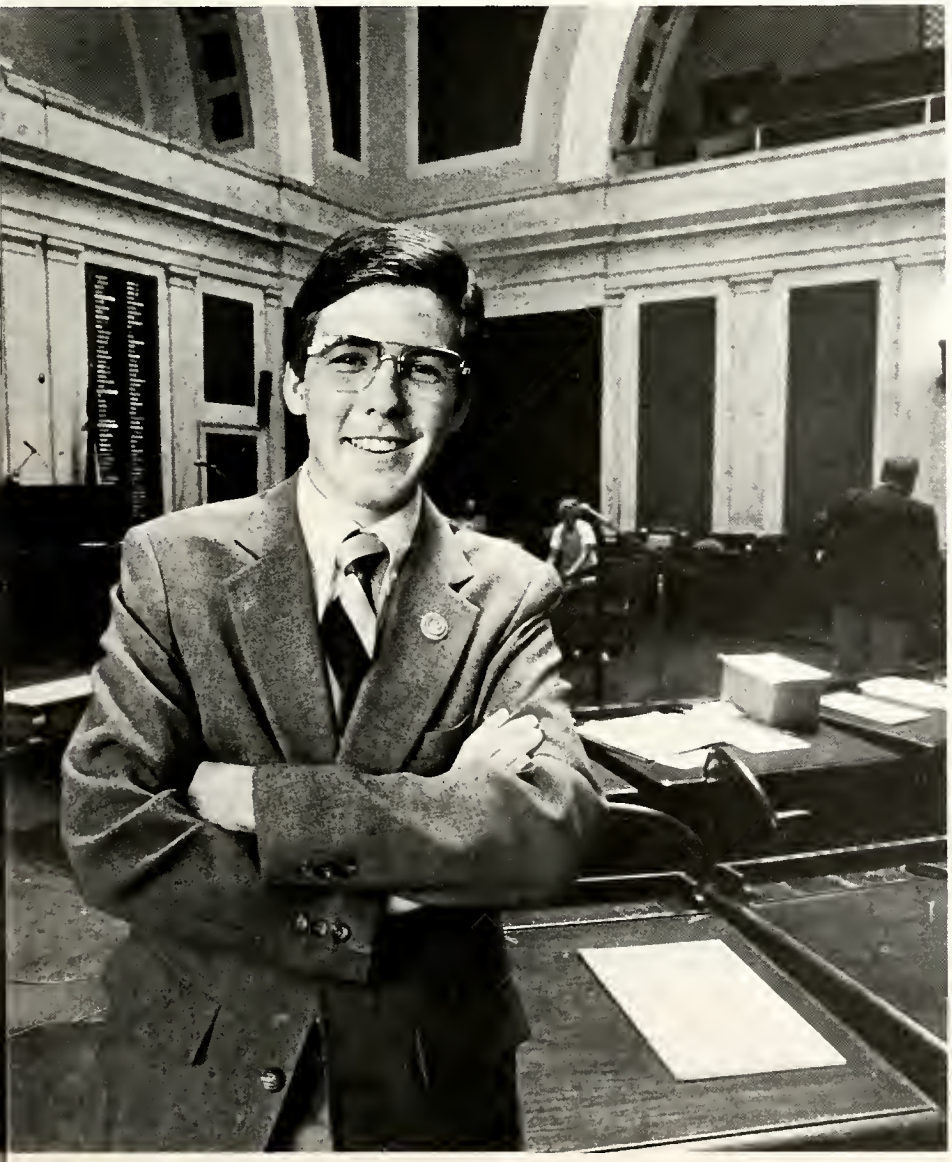
Q: How is FFA and vo-ag perceived in West Virginia?
A: It's unbelievable the places you go in West Virginia, and I'm sure it's all over, the respect folks have for the FFA organization. They know what type of individuals FFA develops.

I think vocational education will play a key role in the future. In my mind, it's one of the ways to solve the unemployment problem. It gives students basic skills and job training, instead of just throwing them out on the street with a diploma. So I'm a big supporter of vocational education, of course vocational agriculture and FFA.

Q: Why is FFA important to you?
A: You know, it's amazing. A lot of times this year when you might have been down and had to drive 300 miles to a chapter banquet when you really don't want to go, but you go anyway and give your presentation and present a couple of awards and it's nine o'clock

hen I'm in the blue jacket, I'm state FFA president. When I'm in a suit and tie I'm a e any problem with meeting my responsibilities."

Photo courtesy Charleston Gazette



"If you can just inspire one person, whether it's in FFA or not, if you can touch just one person's life—then it makes all that effort worthwhile."

by the time you're ready to leave and you know you won't be home until 1 o'clock that night . . . just as you're going out the door Charlie Greenhand runs up *and you see the look in his eye.* He says, 'You know, what you were talking about tonight? I'm going to try and do that, I really think I can. If you started out as a Greenhand one day and you can come down here and talk to all these people, then I'm going to

(Continued on Page 29)

Future Farm Manager

Illinois FFA'er Larry Strubbe builds farm management skills through ag placement

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."

—Plato (428-348 B.C.)

LARRY Strubbe has the kind of problems we all would like to have. He gets paid for learning.

Learning farm management skills through a vocational agriculture program called Ag Placement, that is. What's more, Larry does most of his wage-earning and learning on school time, when most students are sitting in classrooms.

"Educating Through Experience" is the FFA's party-line for the 1983 FFA year, and few programs exemplify this new theme better than Ag Placement, where vo-ag students work part-time on area farms and agribusinesses. Through Ag Placement, Larry Strubbe is getting the kind of education textbooks can't give: real, live, "hands-on" experience, practical training applied directly to a farm or agribusiness program.

Larry, 1981-82 chapter president from Jacksonville, Illinois, plans to become a full-time professional farm manager someday. But in the meantime, he's getting on-the-job training for his future.

"Hands-on experience—that's what ag placement is all about," echoes Bill Fortschneider, vo-ag instructor at Jacksonville High School. His fellow instructor R.A. Batterson says the ag placement program has developed a good reputation with area agribusinessmen and farmers.

"Due to the fact that the program has been in existence for several years, we have no trouble placing students," he says. "We try to keep between 40 and 50 students in the placement program. I think more would be involved if they could, but this way we can be more selective and it's about all we can handle because of the teaching load.

"We have farmers call in because they know about the program, and their sons are leaving for college or to start their own farming program," he continues. "Usually they're the type who will take a student in the work program as part-time help."

Larry Strubbe was named section Star Agribusinessman this year, and has been working on the 640-acre Dave Petefish farm for almost three years through the placement program. He says he's learned more in that time than just how to do field work.

"I think it's given me a lot more leadership skills," says Larry. "I started out doing mostly labor jobs, like helping to cut and wean pigs; now, Mr. Petefish has me rebuilding terraces, planting, taking the hogs to market—I've gotten more and more responsibilities. I'm getting more opportunities on this farm, too, because I can apply what I learn in the class to the job."

Although Larry has responsibilities at his own home farm, he's worked out an agreement with his father to work in ag placement.

"Dad doesn't mind, because he doesn't have enough to keep both he and I busy," says the 18-year-old. His boss Dave Petefish hired Larry for the opposite reason. "The place is too big for one person, but too small for another full-time person."

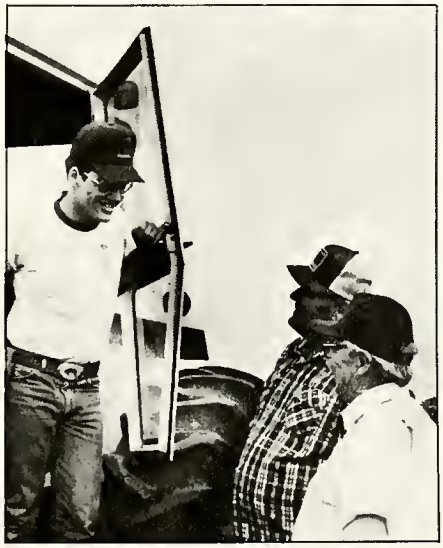
"Larry's done real well," says Mr. Petefish. "You can see a big change in him this year, in the things he can do and the things he's become responsible for." The grain and livestock farmer knows the value of hands-on experience—he's participated in the placement program for ten years, hosting three vo-ag students. "I try to teach him the best way I know how," he says. "I started him out and watched him, trying to explain how to do things, and when he has trouble I go help him. . . . I'm trying to make the best farmer out of him I can."

The diversity of the Petefish enterprise offers another angle of advantage to the placement program. "At home we've just got swine and corn," says Larry, "but here you've got soybeans, wheat, cattle, hogs, corn, sheep—I didn't even know what sheep were

until I got over here," he says with a chuckle.

Mr. Fortschneider describes a triangle of cooperation, which exists as an essential ingredient to the program, between student, teacher and farmer. Instruction is offered to students three ways: theory in the classroom, some applied training in vo-ag shop work, and total application of that instruction in the work programs on farms and agribusinesses. "Textbook and classroom instruction show the way it's done, but on the farm you actually do it," he says.

Larry, who graduated from Jacksonville this past May, now attends a nearby junior college studying to become a full-time farm manager at a swine operation. He still works part-time on the Petefish operation, and when he's ready to look for full-time employment you can bet his experience will make a difference to future employers. As Larry says: "You can always go read about being a farmer. But for most people, on the job training is the best." •••



Top: Larry gets in some fieldwork on the Petefish grain and livestock farm. Above, with Dave Petefish (middle) and Jacksonville FFA advisor Bill Fortschneider.

Ag Placement Offers Opportunities

Larry Stubbe's ag placement program is just one example of over 17,000 students nationwide involved in some type of SOE placement program. What's the advantage? Opportunities, opportunities . . . and more opportunities.

"One of the difficult things today in becoming established is not only a lack of experience but also a lack of capital," says Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist for awards. "Through placement, not only are we allowing students the opportunity to explore and gain experience, we're also allowing them the opportunity to develop needed capital for the future." That initial capital could make a big difference when you're first testing the agricultural waters.

"You're not going to start out as big as a farmer who may be just retiring," says Mr. Seefeldt, "but there is still an opportunity to start."

The specialist describes two types of students who typically become involved in placement: those who don't live on a farm but would like to work on one someday; and those who *do* live on farms but may not have opportunities to work into ownership or explore different areas, such as on a corporate farm. "But with a placement program, the student may decide he's interested in dairy, and he can be placed on a dairy farm," he says.

Mr. Seefeldt cites one more advantage to placement: it gives students needed farm background, even if they decide not to go into the production agriculture field. Many agribusiness-related careers, such as sales or public relations, require some degree of farm background before hiring. "So even if the student goes to college in agribusiness, he still can have the experience—the farm background that's considered necessary in most professional farm fields," Mr. Seefeldt says. •••

Fiscal Fitness . . .

If you're like most FFA members, you'll soon be in a race to become established in agriculture. And though times are tough, securing that first ag loan is still crucial to the outcome.

By Michael Wilson

ENTERING the game of farming or agribusiness these days is like geting ready for the Olympics: you've got to give your best performance if you plan to succeed.

The stakes are high in modern agriculture—and like an athlete in training, FFA members of today need to be fiscally fit in order to face the challenges ahead. This story will help you meet one of the most important and crucial of those first challenges: how to secure your first farm loan.

"Wait a minute," you say. "It's rough out there; they aren't giving those loans out anymore, especially to young guys like me; and besides I can't afford the interest!" Yes, times are tough right now, but there's still a place for you in tomorrow's agriculture, provided you've got the savvy and management capabilities. Any FFA member worth his salt knows how far determination and ambition can go, recession or no recession.

Your tools for meeting the chalenge, however, will be different from those of the olympic athlete. Cash flow statements and balance sheets will play a major role in your winning strategy. Most important of all fiscal tools may be something you hadn't thought of: your SOE record keeping program. SOE programs can help get your foot in the door when it comes time to acquire that first farm loan, because today's SOE records are tomorrow's net worth statements. Ag lenders recognize that—so it's important that you do too. Here's a quick outline of the "training" you'll need before you make your first trip into an ag creditor's office.

Shop Around

"One of the first things beginning farmers do is follow the footsteps of someone else, and that's not always the right thing to do," says Arthur Buffington, president of The Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Buffington is well versed in both farm

credit and FFA. He spent several years as a judge of the FFA's Star Farmer of America Pageant, and he's seen what good records can do for an FFA member's chance at a loan.

Ask yourself these questions: What are the policies of the lender? Are his credit terms adapted to the needs of ag producers or agribusinessmen like myself? What about repayment schedules—will he be able to tailor the loan according to my repayment capacity?

BUFFINGTON: "FFA record keeping is essential. If we have a common criticism of farmers today it is a lack of management information in record keeping. A young guy with FFA records stands a better chance to get a loan because the lender can become more involved by seeing where he's putting his money, and how the plan works for getting it back."

Next, Mr. Buffington recommends gathering your credentials—your basis for receiving the loan. "FFA record keeping is essential," says the farm credit expert. "If we have a common criticism of farmers today it is a lack of management information in record keeping. A young guy with FFA records stands a better chance to get a loan because the lender can become more involved by seeing where he's putting his money, and how the plan works for getting it back."

Daryl Beiler, 1980 regional swine proficiency winner from Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, is a prime example. Now in his third year of full time farming, Daryl says record keeping was stressed in his vo-ag classwork, and is now an essential part of his farm credit credentials.

"It's very important when you go to the bank and say 'I need this much money because here's the situation that's developing, and here's when I can pay it back'—have everything laid out," he says. "When I go for an interview and application to borrow money, I take *everything* along that I can get a hold of as far as financial records."

Strategy

Once you've decided who to go to and have gathered your credentials, it's time to map out a plan. That means knowing where you're going and how you plan to get there, financially.

"The ones who are successful and get credit are those who believe in themselves in terms of what they can do," says Mr. Buffington. "They're not cocky—but they do have a plan to talk to the lender about. A good producer can just *bury* you with information, because he's the architect of his own fate. He doesn't keep doing things that cost him money."

Mike Boehlje, professor of economics at Iowa State University, spells out three "R's" which should be implemented in your plan: risk-bearing ability, returns and repayment capacity. "You *must* be able to document your ability to repay the loan," he warns. "A young farmer won't have much history, so FFA record keeping could be very useful."

In addition, it's a good idea to work

(Continued on next page)

"What Will He Ask Me?"

Want to anticipate the questions on a lender's mind when you sit down to discuss a prospective loan? The following questions may help you prepare for that interview:

Does my personal credit history show that I'm a good risk?

Are my records in good order? Can I show that I understand and use them properly?

Do I have effective production and marketing strategies?

Do I get along well with my employees (or employers)? Do I manage my labor force efficiently?

Am I prepared to discuss long-term goals for my farm? Are they realistic, or am I expanding too quickly?

Have I prepared an updated, year-end balance sheet?

Is my financial statement complete? Are all assets and liabilities listed?

Will I have the cash to service debt payments? Is the repayment period long enough?

Can I come up with the required collateral? Is it insured against loss?

Will the lender view the purpose of my loan as necessary and realistic? •••

Where to Go to Get a Loan

Finding the best source of funding can be difficult. After you've decided on your approach, your next move is determining where to go to get the best loan for your needs. The most obvious possibility is a commercial bank.

Banks are the leading source of nonreal estate loans and a major avenue for real estate loans. However, there can be several drawbacks—especially for rural banks.

If deposit growth is slower than the demand for loans, banks may have difficulties satisfying borrowers. Small rural banks have particular problems, because many have limited access to funds outside their local markets.

The loan demand on rural banks is seasonal by nature. As a result, banks may be short of funds during peak times, such as the planting season.

There are many ways banks can get around these problems. A smaller bank can become a "correspondent" with a larger one. If the smaller bank can't handle a loan, it can request a participation or direct loan from the correspondent bank.

Commercial banks aren't the only source of farm loans, of course. The Farm Credit System is an agricultural credit cooperative owned by member-borrowers. It's made up of federal land banks, which supply long-term loans through local federal land bank associations; federal intermediate credit banks, which function as short-term and intermediate-term lenders through their local production credit associations; and banks for cooperatives, which lend to farmer cooperatives.

Life insurance companies, another lending source, provide financing primarily through first mortgages on farm real estate. These loans are typically for large amounts, and most companies set a minimum size limit.

Federal Funding

The federal government can also be a source for loans. USDA's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is a rural credit agency that lends money to farmers, ranchers, and rural residents who can't

(Continued on next page)

Fitness

(Continued from Page 19)

up a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities, a projected cash flow statement and an income statement. All are effective ways to demonstrate managerial ability.

Young farmers and beginning agribusinessmen are unique because they're generally short on equity with a limited track record in farm management experience. You can offset that by pointing out positive factors: ambition, energy, ability to easily grasp new innovations and concepts and you're willing to listen to counsel. The experience and education you get in vocational agriculture is the most modern training available—and it wouldn't hurt to point that out to your lender also.

Once the loan is secured, it's still a good idea to keep an open line between you and your lender. He may be able to help you if you run into problems. "Everything may be going well, but suppose something happens," speculates Mr. Buffington. "You should go into your lender's office and *tell* him: 'here's why I can't pay right away . . .' That way you keep and maintain the lender's trust."

Plan For Tomorrow

Obtaining your loan won't be easy. High interest rates and low commodity prices have made 1982 the year of the "credit crunch," and the future looks uncertain. As a result, lenders are screening candidates closer, denying applications which might have been accepted two years ago. What's the answer? Develop your net worth by planning ahead.

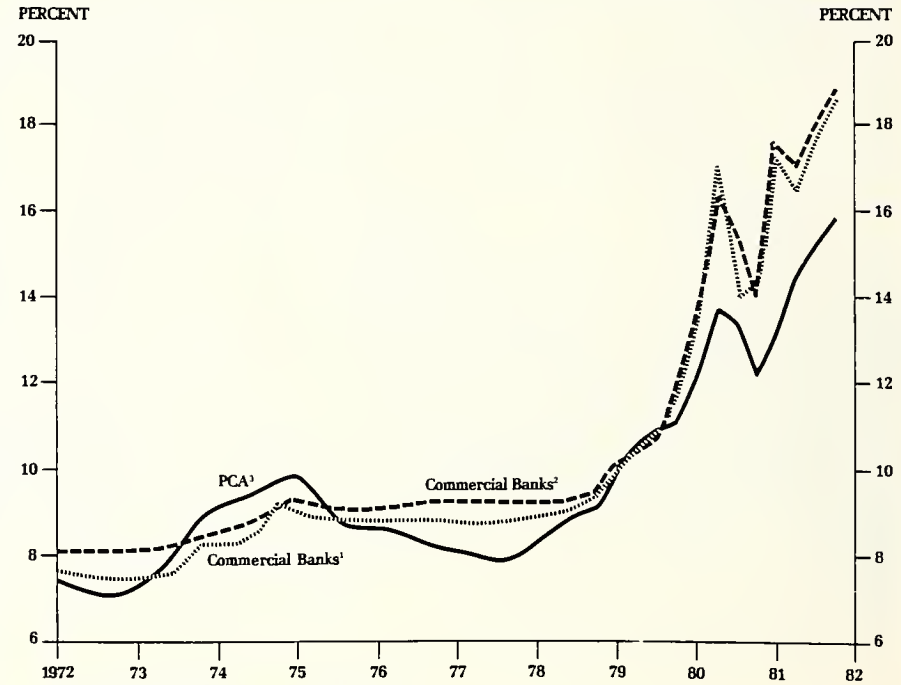
"The number one thing vocational agriculture can do is have students gradually build up a net worth," says Dr. David L. Williams, professor of Agricultural Education at Iowa State University. "Sometimes we have students coming out as seniors who all of a sudden say 'I'm going to farm.' But they should have been making that decision two, three or four years ago, gradually developing their net worth. One of the keys is to start early."

But starting early means making decisions, even if those decisions make you challenge yourself, says the professor. "A major misconception of students is that as long as they put off a decision they feel safe," he continues. "As soon as they make a decision all types of questions enter their minds: Can I make it? Do I have all these things necessary to become successful? Some people don't want to face the challenge of making that decision, but we don't do the student any favors by letting them put that decision off."

No doubt these questions will be difficult to answer, but a career is too important to put off no matter how early you start. That first career decision can be your starting block in a race you *can* win, despite the doom and gloom surrounding agriculture today. You've got the tools necessary for that victory now—but it's up to you to run the race. •••

Interest Rates Charged for Farm Nonreal Estate Loans.

Courtesy Farm Credit Administration



[1]Chicago Federal Reserve District Feeder Cattle Loans
[2]Minneapolis Federal Reserve District Nonreal Estate Farm Loans
[3]Excludes Stock Purchases and Other Fees

Where to Go

(Continued from Page 19)

get adequate financing from other sources. To be eligible for an FmHA loan, the borrower must:

—have sufficient experience or ability to succeed in farming and be recognized in the community as a farmer;

—be able to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere. (Farmers who can get sufficient credit from outside sources may qualify for FmHA emergency loans);

—be eligible to incur the obligations of a loan;

—be able to carry out the terms and conditions of the loan;

—be a U.S. citizen.

The FmHA extends farm operating loans for annual production purposes; farm ownership loans to buy, improve, or enlarge farms; limited resource loans for farmers who can't pay normal interest rates on other FmHA loans; and emergency loans.

Under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), farmers, sugar processors, and some cooperative marketing firms can place their farm products in CCC-approved storage for a time period and receive a nonrecourse loan equal to the loan rate times the amount of product in storage. The loan is nonrecourse because if farm prices fall below the loan rate, the commodity pledged as collateral can serve as full payment of the principal and interest on the loan, thus assuring farmers of a minimum price for their products.

Additional sources of credit are merchants, dealers and seller financing. Because of today's sluggish economy, many merchants who sell farm machinery provide credit for their purchases. These credit programs can be a convenient source of financing, but are usually more costly than loans from other lenders.

Individual seller financing can be a source of long-term credit for real estate purchases. Most of this type of lending occurs when a retiring farmer is willing to finance a land sale with a contract for a deed, first mortgage, or second mortgage lien. The costs, terms and repayment schedules can vary widely. (Courtesy *FARMLINE*, USDA) •••

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND SHINING STARS

Melanie Burgess

Scott Watson

Jack Stewart

It was a time for cheers and tears, a time for laughter and thought, and a time for every emotion and feeling in between. They came adorned in the familiar national blue and corn gold jacket, some to receive awards, some to accept them, some to meet with other FFA members, and some to make decisions affecting a half-million other members . . . but for most, it was the common thread of enthusiasm which exists among all members. They came because they love FFA.

In all, 22,676 members, advisors, parents, alumni, sponsors and friends made the trip to Kansas City, Missouri, for the 55th National FFA Convention, making it one of the most well-attended events in FFA history. Under the burning lights of Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium, FFA members experienced the excitement and grandeur that has come to symbolize all that is excellent in agricultural youth today. Led by national officers Scott Neasham, John Pope, Melanie Burgess, Scott Watson, Randy Hedge and Jack Stewart, FFA members were paced through a fast-action, dynamic program packed with surprises around every corner.

Most notable of these surprises was an enlarged stage, but the new stage only gave more emphasis to those events which traditionally make convention-time so exciting--like the Stars Over America Pageant and the Prepared Public Speaking contests. And although the new stage featured the convention itself, there was more to it than met the eyes of those in Municipal Auditorium. Much, much more.

Literally hundreds of FFA members spent time in other parts of Kansas City at judging contests, tours or the American Royal. In nearby H. Roe Bartle Hall, FFA members received expert opinions for their futures at the National Agricultural Career Show. And the National FFA Alumni Association, which consistently breaks membership records each year, again sponsored their ever-popular leadership workshops, bringing in some of the most talented FFA Alumni and former national officers to conduct them.

After the new theme show "VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE Educating Through Experience," sponsored by The Wrangler Brand of Blue Bell, Inc., FFA members saw a mixture of familiar and unusual: favorites like national officer retiring addresses; band, chorus and talent performances; and celebrity and dignitary appearances. For the second year, *The FFA Times* convention newspaper provided members with the most current news and information. And for the first time in FFA history, new national officer elections saw the first female FFA member to serve as National FFA President (see page 24).

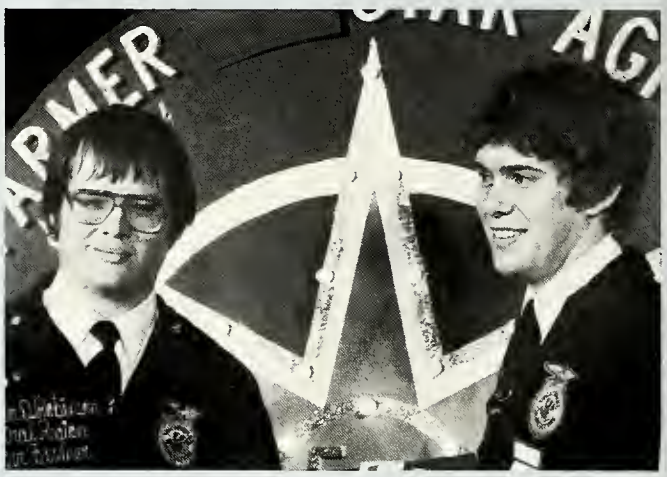
If all could be included on these pages, every moment might be considered a highlight. Suffice to say another convention has passed, and with admirable success. But for those few highlights we *can* describe for you, just turn the page . . .

Scott Neasham

John Pope

Randy Hedge

FFA's Brightest Stars



The lights were shining brightest for two stars at this year's FFA convention when Kevin Robinson of Eskridge, Kansas, was named Star Farmer of America and Elmer Zimmerman (right) of Lowellville, Ohio, was named Star Agribusinessman of America. Kevin and Elmer were selected as FFA's best from a field of almost 800 American Farmer Degree recipients, and each received a $1,000 award sponsored by the National FFA Foundation.

Star Farmer Robinson began his SOE program with 3 cattle, 107 hogs and 46 acres. He expanded his operation to an 890-head commercial cow-calf and feeder setup, a 212-head swine unit and 1,320 acres of crops. Star Agribusinessman Zimmerman started his career with a dairy installation business and eventually reached his goal of buying the business and completely owning the operation.

Delegates Discuss Important Business

Convention delegates met and met again to get action on two proposed constitutional changes, but after a late-night business session, neither motion passed reconsideration. One change would have meant only students enrolled in vo-ag could become FFA members; the other would have affected when members could qualify for the State Farmer Degree. The delegates did establish dues for next year at $2.50 per member, a 50-cent increase.

That's Entertainment

Stars of stage and screen found the crowd of energetic young FFA'ers to be a perfect audience, causing cheers, laughter and applause while speaking out for high ideal Actress Dale Evans sang and spoke at th FFA Vesper's service; "Little House on th Prairie" actress Melissa Gilbert, age 1 (right) spoke to her peers about her wor fighting drug abuse; singer Barba Mandrell (far right with national offic Randy Hedge) fired up the audience a FFA Day at the American Royal an country comedian Jerry Clower (belo right) had FFA'ers rolling with h homespun humor.

Senator Helms Praises FFA

Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, aroused the convention crowd with a formula of leadership for agriculture and America—which he said was found in the FFA Creed; in the opportunities in FFA; and in the hearts of FFA members.

Our Own Gifts Of Song

Under the direction of Stan Kingma, Roger Heath and Don Erickson, FFA members in the National Band, Chorus and talent shows provided excellent performances throughout the convention, often enhanced by the new stage design.

Agriculture Secretary Block Dons FFA Jacket Once More

Secretary of Agriculture John Block pulled off his suit coat and put on his FFA jacket of 30 years ago from his days as an FFA Section President in Illinois. It still fits (Mr. Block is an avid jogger—that's why FFA gave him a pair of the new FFA jogging shorts and an FFA T-shirt.). "Your responsibilities will be many, varied and important. Look for responsibilities, then get the job done," advised the Secretary in a more serious tone. "The FFA teaches leadership and responsibility to youth and gives people experience. It teaches and almost requires excellence." Because of his support for vo-ag and FFA, Secretary Block was presented with the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Career Show Opens Doors to Future

Free curry combs, a chance to buy an FFA T-shirt—or ask about college entrance requirements, or pick up free brochures on ag careers . . . It was all there in the 17th Annual FFA Career Show held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. The show featured 167 exhibitors to help FFA members discover career opportunities in agriculture.

Foundation Has Record Year

Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman Lu Achilles Wall brought FFA members to their feet for a standing ovation, after her announcement of the FFA Foundation's total support figures, over $1.35 million for the annual campaign and over $1.4 million including the Hall of Achievement campaign. That's the largest annual amount raised by the National FFA Foundation.

National Contests Challenge FFA Teamwork

Over 1,400 FFA members on 358 state winning teams competed in nine national judging contests ranging from ag mechanics and farm business management to floriculture and poultry, challenging FFA members' skills and teamwork. In all, approximately 110,000 FFA members entered competition above the chapter level in these contests during the past year—and for nine elite FFA judging teams, those months of work and preparation paid off with highest honors.

FFA Public Speakers: Winning It All

Tim Hoberty, of the Northwestern-Clark FFA Chapter in Ohio, and Joe Huggine (left) of Jonesboro, Tennessee, captured top honors in the convention's Prepared and Extemporaneous Public Speaking contests, events considered to be the most competitive FFA has to offer. Tim's fistful of tickets captured the attention of the convention audience and judges, presenting a motivational speech entitled "Your Ticket to the Impossible." Joe's winning extemporaneous speech on leadership was developed from his chosen topic: "Specific leadership roles needed for American agriculture." FMC Foundation and American Farm Bureau Federation sponsored the contests.

1982-83 National Officers

Your new national officers for the coming year, from left to right, Wendell Jeffreys, Jan Eberly, Bryan Stamps, Bruce Kettler, Marty Coates and Cara Doyle.

A week of screening candidates resulted in a dream-come-true for six enthusiastic FFA members elected to serve as 1982-83 national officers. The new national officers will travel thousands of miles this year, meeting and greeting FFA members and agricultural industry leaders as representatives of the national FFA organization.

History was made this year, as Janice Eberly of Fallbrook, California, was elected FFA's first female president. The 19-year-old college sophomore says she's looking forward to a great year of teamwork with her fellow officers. "You can accomplish so much more when you have six people working together," says Jan. "We've got great resources to call on with these officers, because they're very talented people. We'll set our own high standards, and hope that it's what the organization needs for the coming year. We'll give 'em our best."

Jan will take a year's leave of absence from her agricultural economics studies at the Univeristy of California. Her SOE program includes a swine breeding operation and ornamental, avocado and citrus nurseries. Her career plans include obtaining a law degree to practice agricultural law.

Marty Coates, of Clarkton, North Carolina, will serve FFA members this year as National FFA Secretary. Marty's SOE program includes ownership in a 30,000 plant per year nursery operation, and he too, will take a leave of absence from college studies. He says his main goal this year is to establish a good working relationship among the members of the team. "That way, we can form a team that will best serve the organization, and the organization's needs," he says. Marty studies agricultural education, and eventually hopes to have a career as an ag teacher. He has placed first in both the state public speaking contest and nursery operations proficiency.

Cara Doyle, from the Green Bay East, Wisconsin, FFA Chapter, has been elected to serve as Central Region vice president. She is an agricultural education and agricultural journalism student at the University of Wisconsin, with hopes of pursuing a career in ag public relations and international relations. She has taken part in FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program, working on a Swiss farm for six months. "I felt like I was dreaming," says 20-year-old Cara, when asked for her first thoughts after the election. "My main goal this year is to get to know the members as much as possible, not as a national officer but individually, and share with them the pride I have for the organization."

Bruce Kettler, 19, of Anna, Ohio, was elected Eastern Region vice president. Bruce says he too, is looking forward to a great year. "I want to provide a good example to the members when I meet with them this year," says the Ohio State agronomy major. "I feel it's one of the challenges and responsibilities that the job calls for." Bruce participated in several agribusiness areas through FFA, listing work as a farm broadcaster, seed corn research supervisor and agricultural public relations assistant. His career goal someday is to own an agribusiness in partnership with his father. He served as Ohio FFA President in 1981-82 and has been active on the Ohio Agriculture Education Advisory Committee.

Bryan Stamps, of Edwards, Mississippi, was elected Southern Region vice president. "My biggest goal is representing the members as well as I can, which would include good member relationships, good team relationships, meeting other leaders—whatever it takes to get the job done," says the 19-year-old ag economics major at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. Cattle, swine and vegetable production make up Bryan's SOE program, and he has been employed as an agricultural research assistant and journalist while attending college. He served as Mississippi State FFA Vice president, and plans to obtain a master's degree before working as an ag economist in the ag industry.

Wendell Jeffreys, 20, of Bokchito, Oklahoma, was elected Western Region vice president of the FFA. Wendell is also majoring in ag education with plans for a career as an ag teacher. Wendell served as Oklahoma FFA President and consistently placed high in state public speaking contests. His SOE program includes beef, swine, sheep and horses. He has also worked as a ranch hand and dairy herdsman throughout his varied career in production agriculture. "I think we're all looking forward to the challenge with great enthusiasm this year," says Wendell. "I'm very grateful for the chance to offer what I have to this organization."

FFA's National Winners

National winners in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Star American Farmer	**Kevin Robinson** Eskridge, Kansas	Mark Yeazel New Paris, Ohio	George Clemmer Mosheim, Tennessee	Gregory Krush Kersey, Colorado	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessman	Thomas Lichty Stillman Valley, Illinois	**Elmer Zimmerman** Canfield, Ohio	Tracy Vicary Martin, Tennessee	Clay Christensen Thomas, Oklahoma	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Prepared Public Speaking	Mark Beemer Webster City, Iowa	**Tim Hoberty** Springfield, Ohio	Todd Martin Camden, Arkansas	Jackie Pollard Covington, Oklahoma	FMC Foundation
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Kurt Voss Union, Missouri	Quentin Wilson Forest, Virginia	**Joe Hutfine** Jonesboro, Tennessee	Kelly Rogers Simms, Texas	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency					
Agricultural Electrification	Roger Cech Howells, Nebraska	Jeff Curtis Greenville, Ohio	Kerry S. Smith Woodbury, Tennessee	**Charles Spann** Checotah, Oklahoma	Food and Energy Council Inc.; Winpower Corp.; FFA Foundation General Fund
Agricultural Mechanics	**Michael Arends** Willmar, Minnesota	Dean Abbe Atwater, Ohio	Jeff Winningham Evansville, Arkansas	James W Jamerson Sumner, Washington	International Harvester Company
Agricultural Processing	James Curran, Jr. Browntown, Wisconsin	**Stephanie Gehman** Louisville, Ohio	Chip Bright Daleville, Alabama	Dave Van Wagoner Midway, Utah	Cargill Foundation
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	**John Tiemeyer** Caledonia, Michigan	Barry Geib Manheim, Pennsylvania	Joe Pike Dyersburg, Tennessee	Ray Beck Guthrie, Oklahoma	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	**Deborah Huber** Nokomis, Illinois	Charles Shininger Delta, Ohio	Bobby Bolt Delta, Alabama	Kenny Davis Guthrie, Oklahoma	Nasco International, Inc.; Sperry New Holland
Crop Production	**Brian Roberts** Syracuse, Indiana	John Marsteller, Jr. Stewartstown, PA	Lamar Jenkins Live Oak, Florida	Kyle E. Shinn Mabton, Washington	Massey-Ferguson
Dairy Producton	**Angela Fulp** Aurora, Missouri	John Kline Myerstown, Pennsylvania	Chris Solger Chipley, Florida	Phil Adams Hinckley, Utah	AVCO New Idea; De Laval Agricultural Division; American Breeders Service
Diversified Livestock Production	**Andrew Voxland** Kenyon, Minnesota	Steven Gerfen Prospect, Ohio	Chris Mathis Rome, Georgia	Myron Casdorph Layton, Utah	A O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc.; Wayne Feeds Div. of Continental Grain Co.
Fish and Wildlife Management	Jeff Lueth Truman, Minnesota	Michael Draughon Fayetteville, NC	**Lavon Bradley** Andalusia, Alabama	Jeff Cronkhite Okarche, Oklahoma	Philip Morris Incorporated
Floriculture	Steve Bowen Lagrange, Kentucky	Nancy Fowlkes Yanceyville, NC	Rita Pate Chipley, Florida	**Roy Boswell** Elgin, Oklahoma	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	Jack Bailey Salem, Illinois	Chris Williams Candor, North Carolina	Jerry Miller Wiggins, Mississippi	**Dan Fredrickson** Elma, Washington	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	Gregory Yandell Mayfield, Kentucky	William Draughon Fayetteville, NC	**Roger Spry** Woodbury, Tennessee	Andrew Barker Fruit Heights, Utah	Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	**Mark Beemer** Webster City, Iowa	Neal Johnson Statesville, NC	Seth Fangue Franklin, Louisiana	Victor Rinear Fairbanks, Alaska	Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow and Cobb, Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	Grant Shearer Wall, South Dakota	Jerianne Donovan Delaware, Ohio	Cecile Simmons Archer, Florida	**Tom Sturgeon** Hennessey, Oklahoma	The American Quarter Horse Association
Nursery Operations	Rodney Gustafson Montevideo, Minnesota	Kevin Campbell Hamptonville, NC	**Zachary Merritt** McMinnville, TN	Jeanine Masterson Wells Mesa, Arizona	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Outdoor Recreation	Mark Peyton Walker, Iowa	**Jeffrey Bender** Fremont, Ohio	Norman Thrift, Jr. Macclenny, Florida	Keith Bell Cody, Wyoming	National FFA Foundation General Fund; Daisy, Subsidiary Kidde, Inc.
Placement in Agricultural Production	**James Rufer** Monroe, Wisconsin	Tracy Price Seven Springs, NC	Jon Carter Selma, Alabama	Roger Hoff Eaton, Colorado	Hesston Corporation Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	Heidi Christner Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Larry Landis Parkesburg, PA	Sherry Walker Branford, Florida	**Bryant Blackham** Moroni, Utah	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Sheep production	**Lynn Disch** Evansville, Wisconsin	Barbara Herr Narvon, Pennsylvania	Phyllis Hailey Cedarville, Arkansas	Kirk Olsen Spanish Fork, Utah	Carnation Company; American Sheep Producers Council, Inc.; FFA Foundation General Fund
Soil and Water Management	Michael Brouk Bland, Missouri	Doug Bonham Washington CH, Ohio	**Keith Fowler** Martin, Tennessee	Randall Stieb Iliff, Colorado	Ford Motor Company Fund
Swine Production	**David Pace** Hanska, Minnesota	Martin Hahn Bellevue, Ohio	Paul Maxwell Whigham, Georgia	Ronda Wettlaufer Beavercreek, Oregon	Pfizer, Inc.
Turf and Landscape Management	Allen Williams Benton, Kentucky	David Wickline Marysville, Ohio	Edward Davis Okeechobee, Florida	**Troy Harris** Richfield, Utah	O.M. Scott & Sons
National BOAC Citation	Atkinson West Holt FFA Atkinson, Nebraska	Monroeville FFA Monroeville, Ohio	Cabot FFA Chapter Cabot, Arkansas	**Elma FFA Chapter** Elma, Washington	R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Minnesota**—Dan Arndorfer, Scott Sheely, Clarke Nelson; Leroy	**Dan Arndorfer** Leroy, Minnesota	Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	**California**—Matt Nunes, Dante Migliazzo, Bobby Silveira; Merced	**Paul Vermilyea** Tillamook, Oregon	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Minnesota**—Phillip Berg, Tony Muller, Tom Pierson, Pipestone	**Tom Pierson** Pipestone, Minnesota	John Deere
Floriculture	**Pennsylvania**—Brian Quigley, Philadelphia; Lisa Walters, Loysburg; Lori Calhoun, Chambersburg	**Brian Quigley** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Livestock	**Illinois**—Dale Hummel, Richard Malone, Mike Haag; Cullom	**Richard Malone** Cullom, Illinois	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	**California**—Al Rapozo, James Rapozo, John Olivas; Hanford	**Jana Bell** Pierson, Florida	Farmland Foods, Inc.; Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Jones Dairy Farm; Oscar Mayer & Co.
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	**Missouri**—Tery Brown, Grant Holland, Carol Heithold; Licking	**Dale Adams** San Antonio, Texas	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; Patz Company
Nursery/Landscape	**Washington**—Guy Ouiett, Julie Dieu, Poulsbo; Babe Federer, Vancouver	**Sue Ellis** Yuba City, California	American Assn. of Nurserymen; Amfax Garden Products, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America; Kubota Tractor Corp.
Poultry	**Arkansas**—Ed Zaccanti, Doug Williams, Wade Williams; Fayette	**Wade Williams** Fayette, Arkansas	Hubbard Farms, Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

Winter Survival For Big Game

As the snow becomes deeper, burying the food supply, these Idaho elk are migrating to a range in lower elevations.

By Ferris Weddle

FOR big game animals facing a harsh winter, survival can be a life or death struggle. Hoofed mammals can't hibernate, nor can they nor can they migrate long distances to warmer climates. Death or near-starvation remains a daily, ghostly presence for deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and antelope in the western United States and Canada.

There is no lack of food during the spring through fall months—grasses, shrubs and numerous plants are lush and abundant. But winter ranges are only about 10 percent the size of the spring, summer and fall ranges. Wildlife managers know that good winter range is the key to healthy, productive herds, particularly for the large numbers of elk and deer that migrate from higher to lower elevations when snowstorms hit.

While the hoofed mammals eat a great variety of foods during the good months, their winter diet is limited largely to browse shrubs and a few low-growing deciduous trees. Each range or habitat has a limit on carrying capacity. If the animal population is too high, nature takes its grim toll through malnutrition, disease, parasites and occasionally, predatory animals.

Without the aid of forest fires or other methods used by wildlife managers, browse shrubs grow too tall for animals to use, or become too woody. Pines, firs and other conifers, as well as certain large, deciduous trees can take over a winter range. Or less desirable shrubs, such as thorny hawthorns, can take over.

Natural or man-caused wildfires created the ideal habitat for big game species in the past. But we have learned how to control such fires most of the time. This suits those who are involved in the timber industry, but it has created problems for the hoofed mammels and for wildlife professionals. Fire, as a management tool, is being used more frequently today on winter ranges where there is little or no timber, or where it would be too expensive to log.

In many regions of the mountain West, natural wildfires are allowed to take their course in the classified wilderness areas where logging isn't permitted. In other areas, there is controlled burning. Such projects, however, are still limited even though they have proved successful in providing prime winter game ranges for elk and deer. •••

Moose have less difficulty with winter because they are able to reach high for twigs and buds on shrubs. Their large feet allow them to dig down for food. The moose population is smaller, too, than that of elk and deer.

Courtesy of Idaho Fish & Game Department

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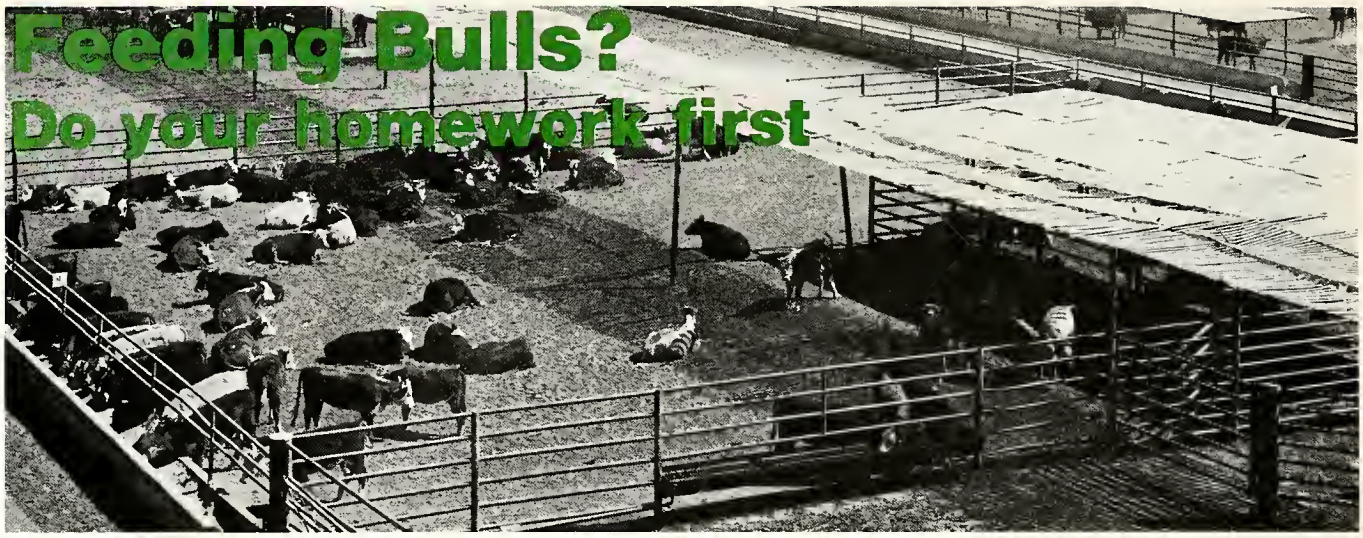
Feeding Bulls?
Do your homework first



SOME definite economic advantages are possible from feeding and slaughtering young bulls before they reach 15 months of age, as opposed to feeding steers—but it takes management skills, discipline and some changes in attitude all along the marketing channels. And right on the top of the advice heap may lie this little motto: don't feed 'em 'til you know where to sell'em.

"Go out and find the market for your cattle first and then at the end of that time, go out and buy the cattle to fit that market," echoes Bill Mies, assistant general manager of Friona Feedlot at Friona Industries in Texas. "Too many times people have decided to feed bulls and gone ahead and put them on feed and were disappointed when the animals were ready to slaughter because they couldn't find anyone to buy them. I think this has been the thing that has held bull feeding back in the past.

"We have not done our homework so far as what markets were available to us and how they could be reached," Mr. Mies continues. "My watchword in the business is to find someone to buy them first and then go out and purchase the cattle to fit that market. . . and then be prepared to provide extra management needed in feeding bulls."

Mies says it's easy to document the ability of the intact male to produce a lean carcass, but there have been problems with marketing intact males, such as:

1. Overcoming the stigma of "bull meat"; and
2. The decreased marbling which produces a lower U.S. Department of Agriculture quality grade.

"It was the contention of Friona Industries that any cattle that produced heavily muscled carasses that were highly palatable when compared with steers must find a place in the market," he says. Today Friona Industries annually markets about 3,000 young bulls.

John Brethour, beef cattle scientist for Kansas State University, says, "The nutrition and genetic potential exists to harvest a 900-pound carcass from a 15-month-old bull. That represents a threefold increase in meat production rate compared to systems used 30 years ago."

Change attitude

So, why isn't everyone feeding bulls? Brethour suggests there needs to be some changes in attitude within the industry. "Feeding bulls results in an exchange of a USDA Choice quality grade for a better cutability grade. A serious disadvantage to feeding young bulls is the possibility of discounted carcasses because marbling is so deficient that they grade Standard or Lean. Dark cutters may also be graded as Bullock, which suffers a price penalty."

Lanny Binger, group vice president for slaughter for MBPXL, Inc., Wichita, Kansas, also adds: "For years it has been very difficult if not impossible, to sell bulls on a live basis out of a feedyard. Grade and yield was the only bid if you got a buy at all.

"There are several reasons for this, with one being quality grade. Government grades for Choice are based on marbling and age. It has been very difficult to get many bulls graded U.S. Choice and we have found bulls to have a very small amount of marbling or none at all."

Mr. Binger says carcass yield, especially in the heavier, older-type bulls, is normally less than it is for steers. However, he says "We have found the younger, calf-weight bulls will yield about the same as a steer of equivalent weights, but as I mentioned before, they will still have the problem with quality grade."

For the most part, cattle feeders have made vast improvements during the last couple of years on bulls put on feed in quality, weight and age. In the past, he notes, there was very little quality control used in buying bulls to be fed for slaughter. Bulls weighing 1,150 to 1,300 pounds at finished weights were being priced to packers close to the steer prices, so most packers refused to bid. It's been difficult to convince packers to bid on better quality, lighter-weight bulls because of what happened in the past.

"One of the problems with getting bulls to grade Choice is, of course, no marbling, but if they do have marbling enough for Choice, the government graders won't grade them Choice if they have bull characteristics," says Binger. "They call them Choice bullocks."

Packers suffer discounts when carcasses are resold as bullocks, or bologna bulls. "With these differentials in mind, you can see why packers are so particular and reluctant to buy bulls on a live basis," he says.

Binger offers hope, however. "We feel that there will continue to be demand for leaner beef, but it must have palatability and quality. If the feeding industry continues to feed the right kind of young bulls and continues with research on rations, length of days on feed, there will be a future for feeding and merchandising of young bulls."

John Brethour adds, "Consumers aren't particularly concerned about the sex of the beef animal—if they were, they'd be asking for heifer or steer meat at the meat counter, and they aren't.

"As long as the beef produced is at a young age and the carcass has all the quality factors necessary for a Good or Choice Grade steer carcass, the meat should be moved as steer carcass."

While additional research will refine and improve a bull feeding program, cattlemen now need to emphasize the application of existing knowledge, he says. And there are several hints that the technology either exists or is on the wings to overcome some of the problems associated with feeding bulls. •••

Adams

(Continued from Page 15)

try that.' Then you get home and a couple weeks later he writes you a letter, and you keep in touch. . . .

If you can just inspire one person, whether it's in FFA or not, if you can touch just one person's life—then it makes all that effort worthwhile.

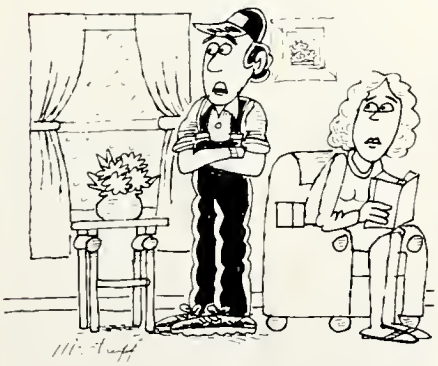
Q: Have you experienced many letdowns in your FFA career?
A: My family has been in the greenhouse business about 15 years with a pretty big operation. We sold that in 1980 and moved to a farm where I built a small greenhouse to keep my SOE program and to try to apply for my American Farmer degree. Well, this spring I had a disaster hit. People from West Virginia University, even USDA came in to try and find out what was making the plants die. I lost $11,000 . . . (he pauses). We lost it all. Nobody could find out what happened, it was just one of those freak things that happen in agriculture.

Well, when the American Farmer degree committee came around to my place, all I had to show them was an empty greenhouse, and a bunch of dead plants. I knew that I wasn't going to get the degree. Man, I was crushed; that was probably the lowest I've ever been.

Q: What happened then?
A: The more I got to thinking about it, I realized that it was just one setback, that's all it was. . . . I'm going to reapply for my American Farmer degree. I was down that whole day, but the next day I was up and out working in the greenhouse. I decided I wouldn't let that one thing hold me back, because if every time you had a setback. . . . You just have to retreat a little bit, re-gather the troops and then charge again. That's basically my philosophy for life.

Q: Duane, what advice would you offer to fellow FFA members?
A: This would be my advice for anybody: one, keep an open mind about everything. Don't get in a rut, look at all the angles. Then, you have to set goals for yourself. You have to say, 'I want to be this, or I want to do that. I'm here at point X and I want to end up over there at point Z.' Then start working for that goal—start planning, start taking courses and classes, start getting involved in activities that will make you develop as a person and as a leader to get to the goals you've set.

Once you get to those goals, don't stop and become stagnant. Set even higher goals. Somebody asked me this just the other day, 'Well, gee, you're a member of the house of delegates, now what else are you going to do?' There are a lot of plans I'm laying the groundwork for right now. . . I'm planning now for a higher goal, continuing to grow and become aware of the needs of people around me. •••



"If it doesn't stop raining soon, our bumper crop will rust."

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___	12x24	25	___	20x40	67
___	16x20	27	___	24x36	75
___	16x24	29	___	26x40	83
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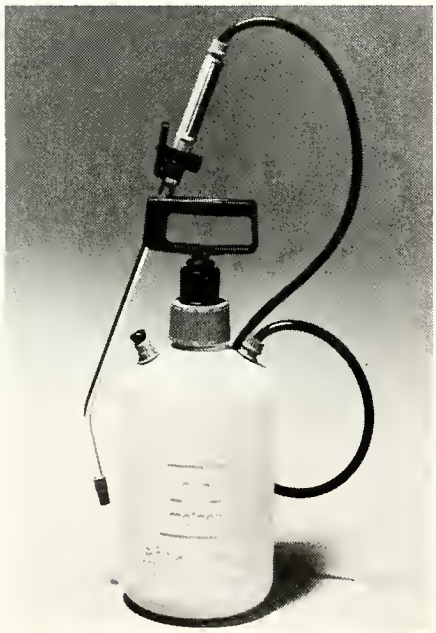
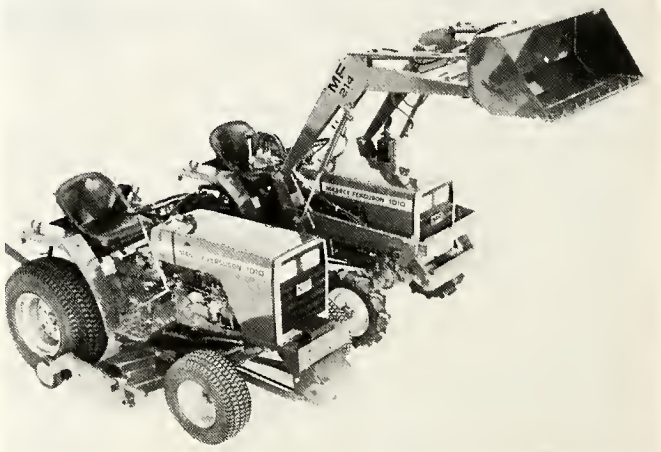


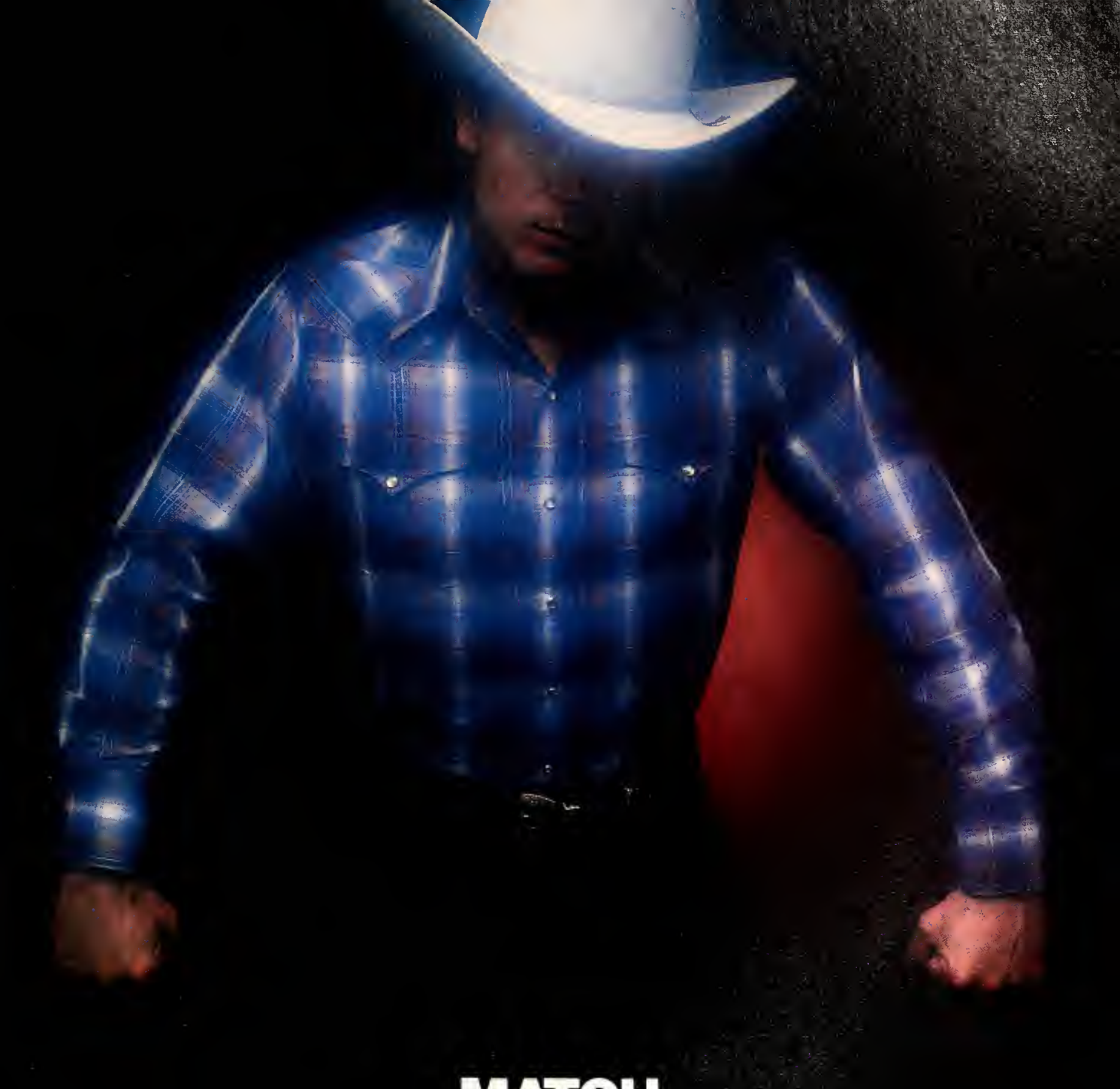
Right, the new 16-engine-horsepower MF 1010 is the latest compact tractor introduced by Massey Ferguson, and is available in both two- and four-wheel-drive models. The MF 1010 features a tilt-front hood and 52.8-cubic-inch diesel engine equipped with glow plug cold weather starting aid.



At left, Melnor introduces the Model 89 Spray Safe, a new pressure sprayer custom designed and engineered to professional standards, featuring a 1.4 gallon capacity, 42-inch heavy duty hose and a limited one-year warranty.

Below, Yamaha introduces the 1983 Tri-Moto 125, a three-wheeler utility vehicle for around the farm or as a weekend fun machine. The Tri-Moto 125 is equipped with a 123cc two-stroke engine and enclosed rear disc brake, highlighted by a tubular steel frame, heavy-duty cord-type tires, a 5-speed gearbox and an integrated headlight that turns on automatically when you start the engine. Color: competition yellow.

Above, John Deere's 4850 tractor, top of the company's new line of 10 two-wheel drive tractors ranging from 45 to 190 PTO horsepower, with mechanical front wheel drive as an option. The MFWD puts up to 40 percent of the tractor's power through the front wheels to improve traction, reduce wheel slippage and improve both fuel and power use efficiency.



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WAEMA MEMBER
In the Tradition of the American Cowboy

A Patent on Success

Missouri Star Agribusinessman Tom Lynch is one reason why this progressive machinery manufacturing company keeps on growing, and growing, and growing. . .

By Michael Wilson

THE muggy Missouri weather makes the road ahead shimmer, as a small sign bearing the words "Tri-L Manufacturing" looms up on the left. Following the sign down a lane to a small group of buildings, one might envision just another small machine shop set deep in the heartland of the country. Nothing special here, you say—that is, not until you step inside and meet Tom Lynch, 1982 Missouri Star Agribusinessman and state Ag Sales/Service winner.

Tom Lynch, one-fourth owner of Tri-L Manufacturing, is no ordinary 19-year-old. His company's services are one reason why farmers in the area can handle large bales of hay quicker and easier.

Nestled just north of Ozark, Missouri, a short hop from the Arkansas state line, Tri-L Manufacturing is a family-owned, family-operated business specializing in

Photos by Author

Clockwise from top: Tom manuevers one of three forklifts at Tri-L; keeping the company books; Tom and brother Robert inspect a finished hay feeder.

making and designing livestock and big bale handling equipment for Missouri and surrounding state farmers.

Tom puts his award-winning agribusiness skills to work daily as co-manager of the company, keeping books, working in the shop, making sales calls and designing equipment.

That's right, they don't just make 'em—they design 'em as well. Tri-L already has one innovation patented that helps make farmers' lives easier, and another new idea is pending. But the biggest patent Tri-L has going for it is its formula for success.

"This all started in the fall of 1978," says Tom. "We had always had this as a hobby and repair shop for my father, a mechanical engineer." In the early part of 1978 the Lynch family, made up of Tom, older brother Robert and parents Marie and Bob, created Tri-L Manufacturing and began selling three-point spikes to nearby farmers.

"Then one machinery dealer in (nearby) Springfield requested we build a pick-up spike, and that's where we developed the spring," adds Tom. "The spring," is a device which, attached to a pickup spike (see cover), allows the winch to keep tension on the cable, therefore keeping tangles out.

"That was our company's first patent, and we started adding other products as we saw the demand," says Tom. "My brother was the one who saw the equipment manufacturing industry take shape. He found that farmers here were beginning to experiment with round bales, and that they needed something to move them.

"A lot of ideas around here started with somebody, and snowballed," he adds. "We all have a hand in developing ideas."

That progress-minded attitude has resulted in huge growth levels for the one-time small operation—52 percent each year over the last three years, to be exact. Those productivity rates are rivaled by GM and Chrysler. What's Tri-L's secret? Listening.

"That's how a lot of products are created—somebody gives the input, and we just listen," Tom notes. "A farmer says, 'Hey, I need something to move my round bales' and we work on developing the product from there."

"Timeliness is important to farmers who need to get a lot of hay in fast," adds Ozark FFA Advisor John Elliott. Ozark lies in one of the top dairy counties in Missouri, hence, more farmers need livestock and round bale handling equipment. But Tri-L's selling range is broader than just surrounding farmers.

"We sell in Missouri of course, but we also sell in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. We're always looking for other distributors for our product line," says Tom.

Tom and brother Robert split most of the management duties along with their father Bob, overseeing between eight and ten employees through two work shifts in the machine shop, TriL's nerve-center—where product quality is truly determined.

"I must have painted 245 sections that day, but I can't say I was painting with an employee—I painted with a friend. You have to be able to get along with people."

Today the place is buzzing like a live wire: hydraulic presses bend pipe and materials, automatic welders with heat sensing devices lay down beads of hot metal, as mechanics and machine operators move about their work with refreshing enthusiasm.

The shop is equipped with three fork lifts to handle finished products and move raw materials, but before anything is ready, it's sent to the new paint shed for a coat of enamel. Through all, safety and speed are emphasized.

"We're trying to find a safer, faster way to manufacture our products," he says. "A lot of things around here are built for safety's sake. That's one of the reasons we have these heavy forklifts that won't tip over."

Tom says employee attitude is crucial to the company's well-being. "We don't press on our employees that 'we're the boss;' I never felt the need to walk up to somebody and say, 'Hey, do this,' because a lot of our employees working in the shop are *happy*—they've got a good attitude.

"One time we had a big rush on feeders and we had to move a lot of them through the paint shed at one time," continues Tom. "Usually just one person runs the paint shed, but I told one of our employees that we needed to get this done and that I'd come down there and run the paint shed while he was working the forklift. I must have painted 245 sections that day, but I can't say I painted with an employee—I painted with a friend... You have to be able to get along with people."

Attitude like that makes for impressive production figures. Tom

(Continued on Page 35)

Tri-L Makes Shop Kits for Vo-Ag Students

How many times have you agonized over what kind of shop project to have in vo-ag? Then after you've decided, everyone in the class seems to want to use the same piece of equipment at the same time.

Tom Lynch and Tri-L Manufacturing may have a solution. The company puts together a catalog filled with shop kits for vo-ag students to buy and put together in conjunction with their vocational agriculture shop experience. The kits come pre-cut, but unassembled. As a result, vo-ag students learn the basics of metalwork and welding, and end up with a piece of equipment for use on the home farm.

"The good deal about this is whenever a student is out in the shop for an hour, they'll have to stand around waiting for the saw, or the drill," says Tom. "Whenever you've got a kit like this that's already pre-cut, pre-drilled and pre-machined, all you have to do is get it and go to work. The only thing you may have to wait on is a welder."

"Students still get welding experience, plus they usually end up with a better all-around quality project," adds Ozark Advisor John Elliott.

Currently the Tri-L catalog is sent to all vo-ag departments in Missouri, and includes projects like three-point tractor spikes for big bale handling, front-loader spikes, pick-up spikes, stock racks, grooming chutes and hay feeders. Interested vo-ag students and instructors should write to: Tri-L Manufacturing, RR # 2, Box 57, Ozark, Missouri 65721. •••

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

Lawinna McGary was first winner of *Symsonia*, KY, new member-of-the-month program based on participation, enthusiasm and behavior in and out of class.

N-N-N

David City, NE, sold chances for a market hog with proceeds going to buy a computer for use in the vo-ag department.

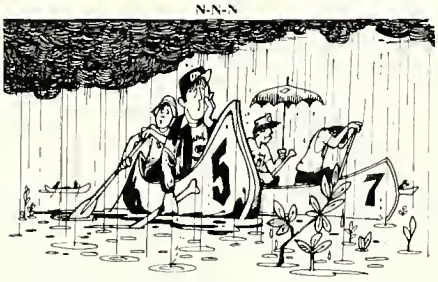
N-N-N

Montgomery County Joint Vocational School in Ohio has a mini-supply service of their own (like a school bookstore) where they stock FFA supplies they buy from the national organization. Then they resell to members.

N-N-N

Ash Grove, MO, Chapter was invited to a dedication ceremony at nearby Southwest Baptist University where Vice President George Bush presided.

N-N-N



Water, water everywhere . . . , but the rain put an end to the *Ovid-Elsie*, MI, canoe trip on the Rifle River. It was a reward for hard-working members.

N-N-N

Charlie Barber, *Dewitt Central*, IA, FFA vice president, advises chapter members "No matter what happens, keep working until you starting moving ahead again."

N-N-N

South Side, AR, FFA took first or second place in all 12 events at the county fair annual fun night for youth groups.

N-N-N

McKean, DE, FFA posts messages and examples of the way application forms should be used on a member communication board in the classroom.

N-N-N

Reporter **Shannon Lennon** submitted two articles to local papers. One was announcing chapter's plans and participation in advance of national convention.

N-N-N

Shane Bowmar won *Willard*, OH, FFA in-house Creed Speaking contest.

N-N-N

During their initiation week, Greenhands from *Black River*, OH, had to bob for apples in a concoction of jello, soft apples, tomatoes and whipped cream.

N-N-N

Besides selling fruit and sausage, *Jefferson*, TX, makes and sells hayrings.

N-N-N

Members of *Midlakes*, NY, Chapter toured the Farmers Museum and Baseball Hall of Fame when they went to the state judging contest.

After 25 years, *Platte Valley* FFA in Kersey, CO, has had 53 State Farmers, 6 American Farmers and 8 national Gold Emblem awards.

N-N-N

Junior officers of *Farmington*, KY, Chapter are freshmen who were interviewed and questioned by chapter officer team. Junior leader program boosts acceptance of responsibility.

N-N-N

Waterford, OH, conducted cornfield yield checks. Members pick test plots, check for loss, damaged or down stalks, figure moisture and calculate bushel per acre the farmer can expect from that field.

N-N-N

Program feature for *Evergreen*, OH, Chapter was a speaker from the county board of elections who helped seniors register to vote, explained voting machines and then conducted a mock vote.

N-N-N

Linn, KS, has started an involvement contest by awarding points for participation. Records are kept by the chapter officers.

N-N-N

Plentywood, MT, members volunteered to weed trees and plantings at the county airport.

N-N-N

Wonewoc, WI, members decided to spruce up the vo-ag shop door, so they copied the emblem and lettering from the back of a member's jacket—then enlarged it and painted yellow lettering to fit the blue shop door.

N-N-N

At the *Owasso*, OK, kiss-a-pig contest, Advisor **Rick Hamm** had to do the kissing because he received the most money votes and student body election.

N-N-N

Menifee County, KY, held a largest tobacco leaf contest. The winner was brought in by **Greg Spencer**. The leaf was 20 inches by 40 inches.

N-N-N

All the officers of *Buchanan Junior High* FFA Chapter in Tampa, FL, received rings in honor of the 20th anniversary of the chapter.

N-N-N

Members of the *Cumberland Valley*, PA, FFA in Mechanicsburg, showed their animals in "pretty calf," "pretty pig," or "pretty lamb" class at the fair.

N-N-N

Patrick Henry FFA in Glade Spring, VA, operated an Old McDonald's Farm during the annual Tobacco Festival.

There were 488 entries in *Riverheads*, VA, Chapter's second annual Crop and Vegetable Show in the school cafeteria. Blue ribbons earned 75 cents; red, 50 cents; and white, 25 cents. **Steve Bradley** had 27 entries and earned $10.

N-N-N

Zillah, WA, Chapter newsletter is now produced with a computer printer.

N-N-N

"FFA Is Pulling For You" was FFA float theme at *Plentywood*, MT. You guessed it—two members milking a Holstein cow by hand.

N-N-N

Willard, OH, bid on and bought two market hogs at Huron County Junior Fair Livestock Sale. One was from a nearby FFA chapter; one from a local 4-H club.

N-N-N

Webster, SD, sponsored a greased pig contest at the local fair—it was such a success, "future greased pig contests will be planned."

N-N-N

District 214 FFA in Illinois had parent night at the greenhouse.

N-N-N

Daniel Campbell showed thm Grand Champion Market Steer in the Parish Fair as a member of the *Converse*, LA, FFA livestock show team.

N-N-N

Larry Pisani, *Winters*, CA won a $1,000 Wells Fargo Bank scholarship.

N-N-N

Roger Brown, an Alumni member in *Mantachie*, MS, painted the lettering on the Alumni van while he was cooking the pork for the big alumni barbeque.

N-N-N

Melissa Widener, Linda Stutzman, Rich McGinnis and **Jennifer Jefferson** make up the livestock and dairy judging team for *Douglas* FFA in Dillard, OR.

N-N-N

Atwater, CA, novice team won second in the sectional opening-and-closing-ceremonies contest.

N-N-N

Bon Homme FFA in *Tyndall*, SD, is planning a field trip to a local feedlot with the alumni.

N-N-N

Each year *Seymour*, MO, FFA builds another addition to the children's playground in the community, according to Secretary **Steve Wilkerson**.

N-N-N

There are bound to be lots of good chapter programming ideas uncovered this season. Share them via Scoop with other chapters. Brag a little about your chapter.

Patent

(Continued from Page 33)

estimates Tri-L can produce 33 three-point spikes per man per day, and last year they produced over 2,000 bale feeders for farmers.

When Tom isn't keeping books or looking after the grounds, he's putting his sales and service skills to work as a Tri-L salesman. He's demonstrated a good head for both business and public relations, and uses his disc jockey-smooth voice to explain to farmers what Tri-L products are all about. But Tom says those skills didn't just happen overnight.

"Whenever I go to a machinery show or a fair I have to meet people, talk to them and explain products," says Tom. "I have a big advantage because of the things I've learned in FFA and vo-ag. I've learned leadership from FFA—how to meet and talk with people and speak on my feet."

Ironically, Tom didn't spend much time in vo-ag shop work, but it's easy to understand considering his background.

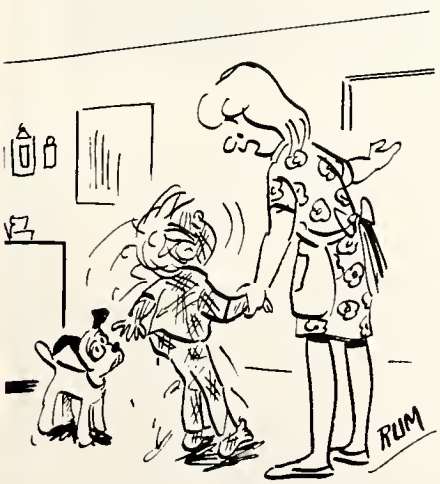
"He was getting more experience at home than he could possibly be getting at school,"explains Advisor Elliott. "Tom probably knows more about operating some of these shop tools than I do, so instead, he spent more time on leadership activities." Tom found himself winning two prestigious state FFA awards and a member of the winning chapter in the national invitational parliamentary procedure contest, held each year in Carthage, Missouri. He now serves as an area vice president.

"Since I was elected, my eyes have opened up to different fields in agriculture," he says. "What got me excited about FFA in the first place was the opportunity to hear about motivation. I think the key thing is that I just tuned in—I started listening.

"I'd always been excited about FFA, but by listening to different people, I found out how good an organization FFA really is," he says.

A 1982 graduate of Ozark High School, Tom now studies agribusiness at Southwestern Missouri State University. He wants to be involved in the family business in the future. Meanwhile, Tri-L Manufacturing keeps humming along, currently waiting on another patent to be accepted for a new product to be used on a bale unroller attachment.

The idea for the new product didn't come easy—but then, patents on success don't come easily, either. It's all ground firmly into the company's principle of service to both farmers and future farmers as well (see page 33). Tom's headful of ideas, as well as the rest of the Lynch family, make them the type of innovators that are desperately needed to solve problems for tomorrow's agriculture. With the track record so far at Tri-L, it's a sure bet they'll hold that success patent for a long time to come. •••



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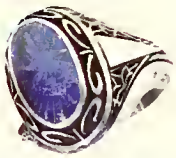

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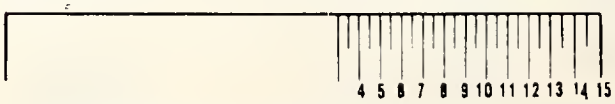

ORDER DIRECT FROM: NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE / P.O. BOX 15160 / ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINA 22309

An Angus heifer, originally offered to President Ronald Reagan, was given to Kirk Ekena, an Illinois FFA'er shown at the halter, to raise and keep as a production chain. Contributor Forrest Lemmon, and his secretary Nancy Mazingo, were on hand at the time of presentation to Kirk.

RONALD REAGAN'S HEIFER

Forrest Lemmon is currently 80 years old and has been a livestock breeder in the Goodfield-Congerville area of Woodford County, Illinois, all of his life. In the fall of 1981 he decided to celebrate his 80th birthday with an Angus sale and sell 80 head. His secretary was looking at some of his old pictures and discovered Ronald Reagan in one of the pictures. Mr. Lemmon remembered that Reagan, as a college student at Eureka College, used to come to the farm during free time and also attended some of the early sales. So Mr. Lemmon sent the President a copy of the picture and received a reply back from him that he remembered his visits to the farm.

As a result Mr. Lemmon decided to present President Reagan with one of his best Angus heifers. Mr. Reagan replied that the heifer would be above his acceptable gift range and that he would present the animal to an organization in his name. The Illinois Association FFA was selected to receive the heifer.

The Illinois Association FFA developed an application to identify a ninth grade vocational agriculture student to be the recipient of the heifer. An excess of 200 students completed the application. A system was developed to interview all of the applicants to determine the student best qualified to receive the heifer. The final decision was made on April 24, 1982, and the official presentation of President Reagan's Angus Heifer was made to the winner by the Illinois Association FFA in May, 1982. The recipient was Kirk Ekena, Elmwood FFA Chapter, Elmwood, Illinois. Kirk was recognized on stage during the 54th State FFA Convention.

A major portion of the selction process was to identify a young FFA member who would utilize the opportunity to receive a quality animal to either establish a breeding herd of Angus cows or to upgrade an existing herd. Kirk met the qualifications of upgrading an existing herd. A rigorous schedule has been developed pertaining to the heifer. Kirk must keep the heifer for a five-year period and maintain the heifer and offspring as a part of his Supervised Occupational Experience program, report the progress of the heifer to the Illinois Association FFA on a quarterly basis, and follow an approved breeding schedule for the heifer. She will be artificially bred to some of the finest sires in the nation.

The Illinois Association FFA was pleased to be the honorary recipient of the heifer. The project demonstrates how a quality SOEP opportunity can be initiated and offered to vo-ag students in a state.

FFA HONOREE GETS MORE RECOGNITION

With all that she has accomplished, Juanita Yates might well be a whole committee instead of just one dedicated lady. The mother of ten children, Juanita has combined successful motherhood with community service and a professional career. These accomplishments have earned her the coveted title of "Missouri Mother of the Year."

Mrs. Yates had already been named Honorary Chapter Farmer of the Monroe City, Missouri, FFA in 1980. She had been a long-time supporter of the chapter (and all youth in the community) because of her coverage in the newspaper with photos and positive editorial support.

"The choice was not easy for our judges," Mrs. Lynn Rodewald, Kansas City, search chairman for the Missouri Mother's Association said. "Mrs. Yates was outstanding since her community activities are family-oriented. Juanita has made an impact on her community, on her state and in the field of journalism."

Mrs. Yates entered the field of journalism after all of her children were in school. She says her fulfillment and satisfaction in her 13 years of professional work was equalled only by her fulfillment as a wife and mother.

She gives full credit to her husband, George, who is a farmer and salesman, and a prominent figure in their community, church and in her words, "a splendid father."

Her achievements in the field of journalism are impressive. She was named Missouri Communicator in 1976 and Missouri Press Woman of Achievement in 1980. Her work at the Monroe City News resulted in 157 state and national awards. She was selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in American Women 1980* as well as the FFA honor. She helped organize Monroe City UCP, the Sheltered Workshop and Parents Anonymous. She taught English to and helped relocate Vietnamese families, worked for handicapped and abused children, and is a volunteer housemother for the latter. She is active in Holy Rosary Catholic Church as a song leader, lector and teacher. She is in demand as a speaker and is active in educational, civic and cultural activities.

Her children are well established in their chosen occupations. Three of them are teachers, one a school

(Continued on Page 38)

FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 37)

principal, two are licensed practical nurses, one is a food columnist, another a farmer who is leaving for one year to do volunteer work with the poor in the Appalachian Mountains, one is a homemaker and one a student in college.

TREES FOR TOMORROW

The village of Mishicot, Wisconsin, Chapter got into a bind to pay for 3,375 trees because a new sewage pipe was going through the nursery. So the local FFA chapter helped out by buying all the trees in the way of the pipe.

The trees are Globe White Cedars and Colorado Blue Spruce. This is a lot of trees for one organization to manage and especially if it doesn't have enough room for them all. So FFA held a few "dig your own" days in which people could dig the trees of their choice.

Now FFA will transplant 1,000 trees in a lot which was donated by a concerned citizen. The trees will be cared for by a group of FFA members interested in working in a nursery. Next spring, there will be another "dig your own" weekend to reduce the number of trees even more. With the cooperation of the village and the work of the chapter the operation will be a great success. *(Marcia Rabitz, Reporter)*

AN OLD CLICHE PAYS OFF

Everyone has heard the cliche, "kill two birds with one stone." Well Miami Trace, Ohio, FFA members made three projects out of one with just a little time and effort.

During the annual FFA/Alumni consignment sale, the FFA sponsored a concession stand, then collected the can tabs and collected the alumnium cans.

The concession stand has been a repeated event the FFA members have enjoyed operating each year.

Saving aluminum can tabs is a new project for the chapter. The chapter had heard that the Kidney Foundation was allowing kidney disorder patients a minute more on the kidney machine per can tab. At the consignment sale the cans were collected and the FFA chapter members pulled the tabs off and saved 732 tabs. The can tabs were given to Mrs. Randall Dawson for a kidney disorder patient in nearby Greenfield, Ohio.

The aluminum cans that were collected will be recycled for reimbursement to the FFA chapter. *(Debbie Strahler, Reporter)*

THEY'RE HOG RAISERS

We are a chapter of 110 members, and approximately 65 percent of our membership has swine as a Supervised Occupational Experience program.

Our members with swine show their hogs in derby pig competition. Derby pigs are weighed in at a young age, and their rate of gain is strongly considered at show time. All hogs are shown on the hoof, and are then sent to the packer, where they are ranked again according to carcass quality and rate-of-gain.

We feel that the derby pig program has added a great deal to our swine SOE program, because students are more conscientious of balanced feed

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FACTS FOR ACTION
ELIMINATE THE MYTHS ABOUT EPILEPSY

For hundreds of years people with epilepsy have been persecuted or isolated because of myth and superstition surrounding the condition. It has only been in recent times that medical science has begun to offer the person with epilepsy a chance of living a normal life. Yet the fears of the past linger on, and even today people with epilepsy face misunderstanding and hostility in many areas of life.

Epilepsy is a chronic medical condition produced by sudden changes in the electrical function of the brain. All human activity is made possible by the constant discharge of electrical energy between brain cells, but in persons with epilepsy the discharge is sometimes too great, and the visible result is an epileptic seizure.

Today epilepsy is usually treated with medication, and with appropriate treatment up to 80 percent of those with the disorder can expect partial or complete control of seizures.

About two million Americans have epilepsy, and 100,000 new cases develop every year, 75,000 of them in children and adolescents. It appears without warning in all races and at all social levels. It can cost the individual sufferer hundreds of dollars every year for medical care and medications, and thousands of dollars in lost earnings. Epilepsy exacts an enormous financial toll nationwide, costing society about $4 billion a year in direct and indirect expenditures.

It used to be widely believed that epilepsy was directly inherited and that only a small and predictable group of people would be affected. Today we know that inheritance plays a relatively small part in the development of epilepsy, and that everyone—man, woman or child—has some risk of developing it. Many people fail to recognize the more subtle signs of epilepsy and miss the opportunity for early diagnosis and treatment. Although the symptoms listed below are not necessarily indicators of epilepsy, if you or anyone in your family experience one or more of them, it would be wise to check with your doctor:

- Blackouts or confused memory.
- Odd sounds, distorted perceptions, feelings of fear or apprehension that cannot be explained.
- "Fainting spells" with loss of control or followed by fatigue.
- Episodes of staring in children; unexplained periods of unresponsiveness in a child.
- Episodes of blinking or chewing at inappropriate times.
- Involuntary movement of limbs.
- Convulsion with, or without fever.

Overall high point team in the FFA division of the judging contest was Jay, Oklahoma, FFA American Quarter Horse Association President, Robert Norris is at far left. Team members are left to right, Darrell Cunningham, Advisor; Yates Adcock; Sandy Richie; Mary Phillips; and Ron White.

HORSIN' AROUND

Jay, Oklahoma's FFA horse judging team walked away with top honors at the American Junior Quarter Horse Association's fourth annual world championship judging contest in August in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jay team members Mary Phillips, Yates Adcock, Sandie Richie and Ron White amassed 1,597 points during competition to edge out the Bret Harte-Angeles Camp, California, team by a six-point margin. Jay team member Mary Phillips earned 550 points to take second high individual honors.

Eight teams competed in FFA competition, each team judging four halter classes and four performance classes plus oral explanations of four classes.

rations, feed efficiency, breeding programs, carcass quality and profit.

Sound genetic programs are an extremely important part of raising productive hogs. Our members carefully evaluate sow lines and breeding stock for their programs. Several members have also sent hogs to testing stations.

At the Iowa State Fair this year, 32 of the 69 derby hogs shown in the state were from DeWitt Central. Nineteen of our hogs placed in the top ten on the hoof, and one member exhibited reserve champion of the derby show.

On the rail, members from our chapter took both champion and reserve champion carcasses, and altogether seven of the top ten placings were DeWitt Central hogs.

Although we're very proud of our accomplishments in the show ring, we want to emphasize that the most important part of hog production to us is in producing honest, sound, profitable hogs at home. Complete records are kept, and we breed our hogs to create highbred vigor and genetic consistency.

Showing, in turn, helps us to further evaluate our hogs. We can then concentrate on strong points and improve on weaker points in our breeding programs. *(Maureen Barber, Reporter)*

SANTA BRINGS OUT THEIR SMILES

Every year the Goddard Chapter of Future Farmers of America in Roswell, New Mexico, holds an annual Christmas party for the mentally disabled. The twinkle in the eyes of the children as Santa and his helper walk through the door with their bag of toys makes all the long hours of hard work worthwhile.

Weeks before the party FFA members collect toys from neighbors, organizations and churches. When the toys arrive back at the ag shop, FFA members begin the process of mending, which may be everything from making doll clothes to painting miniature cars.

We are very fortunate to have one of the top-rated rehabilitation centers in the state nearby.

The Sunday before Christmas the kids at Roswell Rehabilitation Center

(Continued on Page 40)

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 39)

eagerly await the arrival of Santa and his helpers. Each kid has the thrill of getting a picture taken on Santa's lap.

AN FFA LANDMARK IN VIRGINIA

The agricultural education staff and students at Virginia Tech recently completed two special activities especially for FFA members in the state.

The first of these activities was the second annual FFA Leadership Conference held October 1 sponsored by the student organization, Agricultural Education Society. Leadership and motivational classes were taught to new members of the FFA by members of Agricultural Education Society and the Virginia Association FFA State Officer team. Members could rotate during three sessions to classes on "So You Want To Be A State Officer," So You Want the State Farmer Degree," "In The Public Eye," "Organizing The Confusion," "How To Keep Meeting Time From Being Nap Time," "The Arms and Legs of The Chapter," "Saying Hello and Goodbye," and "Advice to Advisors" taught by state Executive Secretary Randy Trivette.

The featured speaker for the conference was Melanie Burgess, national FFA vice president for the Eastern Region who is also a student there. A total of 462 FFA members representing 40 FFA chapters attended the conference.

In addition, the Agricultural Education Program Area has established a historical room recognizing the four co-founders of the FFA. The historical room, which is part of the program area's office complex, contains the table where Walter Newman, Henry Groseclose, Edmund Magill and Harry Sanders worked when they discussed establishing the Future Farmers of Virginia in 1925 (and which was a model for the Future Farmers of America). The room also contains such memorabilia as a picture of participants visiting the White House during the 1933 FFA Pilgrimage, a picture of the 1926 agriculture contest and athletic competition held at Virginia Tech, a program from the 1927 Third Annual Conference of Vocational Agriculture Students held in Kansas City when today's Future Farmers of America organization was formed. *(John Hillison, Advisor to Ag Ed Society)*

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SPECIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PACKAGE FOR CHAPTER

Chapters should get in an order for Calendars to distribute in the community, too. At the bank, fire station, post office, county court house, elevator, veterinarian's office, school library, or principal's office. Encourage your chapter to order these calenders with the general FFA and vo-ag message.

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REAL BARN BUILDERS

The class project for the sophomores at Wauseon, Ohio, included construction of a 10-foot by 12-foot utility building made for the North West Care Center. The center is for senior citizens who will use the barn for general storage.

"Students started from the ground up," according to Mike Zientek, advisor. This was only part of the semester long course in which the class built three projects of their own choice. *(Brian McClarren, Reporter)*

BUBBLE, BUBBLE, TOIL AND TROUBLE

Cass County Voc-Tec FFA Chapter at Harrisonville, Missouri, works at the annual log cabin festival each year by making apple butter. Members worked in cooperation with the Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter. Members peeled the apples on Friday, and started cooking the apple butter at 5:30 A.M. on Saturday. *(Greg Buerge, Reporter)*

ACTION LINES ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤

- Challenge the alumni on the basketball court.
- Be sure your chapter says thank you to your advisor's wife.
- Do you own a pair of FFA jogging shorts?
- Gift ideas for your advisor—FFA travel bag.
- Clean up and fix up the Welcome sign on the edge of town with the FFA sign.
- Invite the radio farm broadcaster to the chapter banquet.
- Prepare fresh flower arrangements for the school office every week or so.
- Teach someone to block a lamb.
- Publish a newsy, good quality FFA newsletter to fill the void of no more local newspaper.

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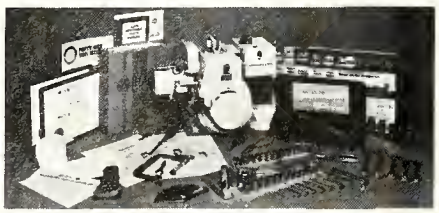

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The Joke Page

Benny wanted to live forever. One day a fairy godmother appeared and said that he would live forever if he never shaved. Then one day he met a beautiful girl, and they fell in love. She said she would marry him if he shaved off his beard. So he did. When the fairy godmother heard about it, she was furious. She turned him into a silver vase.

Moral: A Benny shaved is a Benny urned.

Monica Nehm
West Bend, Wisconsin

Every day I passed a bakery and saw a lady beating her son over the head with a loaf of bread. Then one day I passed and saw her beating him with a chocolate cake. I went in the bakery and asked the lady why every day when I passed by the bakery she was beating her son over the head with a loaf of bread and today when I passed she was beating him over the head with a chocolate cake. And the lady said, *"It's his birthday."*

Charles Stogner
Franklinton, Louisiana

Dan: *"My grandfather was a great western politician."*
Don: *"What did he run for?"*
Dan: *"The border!"*

Jeff Waters
Wapakoneta, Ohio

"There are no sacred cows here, so cull away."

Big Brother owned a car that had a CB in it. Little Brother always would beg Big Brother to let him talk on it. So one day they were going to town and Little Brother kept begging so finally Big Brother gave in and handed Little Brother the mike. Little Brother didn't know what to say. Big Brother wrote words on a piece of paper and gave it to his brother. Little Brother said, *"Chirp, chirp, Gobble, gobble, bok, bok . . . ."*

About ten minutes later they heard the police coming. The police pulled them over and arrested Little Brother. The moral: don't use foul language on the CB.

William Iannarelli
Chatom, Alabama

It was the football Super Bowl in the animal kingdom. The large animals led the small animals 90-0 at half. The small animals' coach told his team they had to stop the rhino from scoring any more TDs.

The third quarter started with the large animals receiving. Down the field came the rhino. Suddenly at the ten-yard line, on his way for another score, the rhino was tackled. *"What made the tackle?"* cried the small animal coach. *"The centipede did."* replied the squirrel. *"Where was he the first half?"* stormed the coach. *"In the locker room putting on his shoes!"* answered the skunk.

Gale Wilson
Elgin, Oregon

Scene: hospital baby ward. Little girl baby to little boy baby, *"Are you a little boy baby?"*

Boy: *"Yes."*
Girl: *"How do you know?"*
Boy baby swings open his blanket and says, *"Blue booties!"*

Mary Higgins
Spencer, Iowa

Among the pupils in a high school chemistry class a lad had a tendency to monopolize discussions. The teacher decided that such a troublesome habit should be called to the attention of his parents. On his report card the teacher wrote: *"Allan is a good student but he talks too much."*

Several days later the report card was returned. Underneath the teacher's comment the boy's father had added: *"You should meet his mother."*

Rhonda Porter
Long Branch, Texas

A man called the fire department to report a fire at his house. When the fire chief asked how to get to his house, the man asked, *"Don't you still have that big red truck?"*

Mike Horn
Phillipsburg, Kansas

Two men were moose hunting in a great mountain range out West. Both of them shot a moose and went back to the airport to go back home when the pilot said, *"I'm sorry, but you can only take one of the moose aboard."*

"Well," they argued, *"last eyar the pilot let us take both of them."*

"OK," the pilot said. So the overloaded plane took off. As it was heading for a mountain, it crashed.

The hunters got out and said to the pilot, *"Looks like we got about one-half mile further than we did last year."*

Jimmy Van Cleve
Calhoun, Kentucky

A little boy took a composition called "Our Dog" to school.

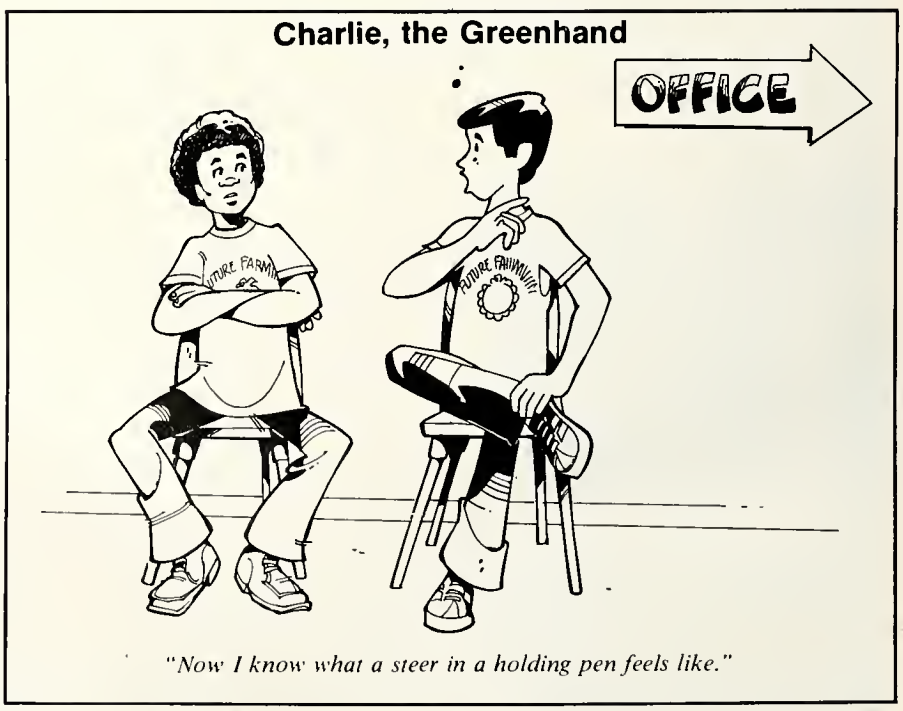
The teacher said, *"This is the same story you sister handed in last year."*

"Why not? It's the same dog."

Chris Renfree
Auburn, California

Career advisor to student: *Your vocational aptitude test indicates that your best opportunity will be in a field where your father holds an influential position."*

Mike Heindl
Abbotsford, Wisconsin



"Now I know what a steer in a holding pen feels like."

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